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About the whole
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**SPRAWL
IS GOOD**

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AIDS DEBACLE:

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LET'S START OVER.

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GREEN ACRES

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THE END OF THE PERIOD

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and a new war over women's
bodies has begun. Parents, doctors,
and feminists take sides. P.40



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PAUL WELLS'
CAMPAIGN DIARY

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Publicly, they're for the little guy—privately, not so much. A new book tackles the hypocrisy of the left.

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AIDS: Picture Change Chief Photographer Peter Brings looks at the impact of the pandemic on youth in Africa. www.macleans.ca/gallery.
Rash Bash The singer songwriter's cover songs in the final instalment of this exclusive diary from the road. www.macleans.ca/robertabash.

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PARAMOUNT
HOME ENTERTAINMENT

COLLECTOR'S EDITION: the only issue Jack Layton really came about

In partnership with Innovative Research Group and the McGill Observatory on Media and Public Policy, Macdonald has assembled a panel study that will track the opinions and priorities of Canadians as they drift through the election campaign. In addition, we are tracking the news and commentary bias garnered by the major daily newspapers across the country, to see just how much public opinion is being driven by media coverage.

The Canada's 2009¹ study drew on the opinions of 80,000 registered voters from across the country. Data were drawn out of the campaign, we will go back to our panel members, and use their opinions on the issues, the parties, the leaders, and the values that are important to them. This form of registering research without a group of thousands of respondents, was pioneered about 10 years ago in Britain, but most media companies to have left it behind as a way to focus on less expensive and less complicated polling. But no other group can provide such reasonable insights into the issues that make and break campaigns, and how well different parties are speaking to those concerns. The real power of a panel study like this one is in its explanatory power," says Greg Lipp, managing director of Innovative Research. This is the only way to ensure that individual assessment reflects an election campaign.

Our teacher's job is being led by Stuart Soroka, a professor of political science at Monmouth College University, and the one who literally wrote the book on how the press affects public attitude and how that is reflected in government policy. In the 2001 Oregon election campaign, for example, Soroka's team found that the media health care education dominated the headlines, the strong the Liberals performed. When taxes and fiscal management were paramount, the Conservatives edged back up. In the end, hospital and schools became the main focus of the campaign and the Liberals took a majority government. That kind of analysis will now form the core of our media coverage. "There's a really simple question: how do we track media coverage and a person," Soroka says. "We know which newspaper is reading or watching news. We can see what they're doing. But we don't know if they're interested in it. One of the most difficult things around ethics, race, and health care." Jose Reyes reports on how coverage of the parties and leaders in the first days of the campaign compares with how they finished the last one. And national columnist Paul Webb moves from his own point of view to provide an extended campaign diary.

All that's past is a taste of what will follow in the weeks ahead! While everybody else is trying to predict who will be first past the post, Michael will be answering the more fascinating question: why? **H**

Water water everywhere

Steve McWhorter's "American Aquatics" (*Conservation* 28) should be questioned reading. I have always thought that exporting fresh water, which was about to join the salt water on our two coastlines anyway, was a relatively benign way to have our water and sell it, too, provided we chose a suitable place and negotiated the amount and all process of withdrawal. Someone in the 1960s, I read an article about a proposed dam across the southern tip of James Bay, capturing the flow of five million gallons of water a day and pumping it into the sea. Then that night soon after the dam was built, there was a big rain and the water lake. Then a number of small boats, electric pumps along the river could be built to supply power to pump water to that fresh-water south coast to empty into lakes or rivers.

I don't agree that the world will save Canada. The world's labour will have its principles on all rights while that of the American will be that if it can it will "get aggressively" to do things. If it becomes "set against" the world, "beyond the border will treat it" as a response to our refusal to sell our wheat, then I think the world will be more inclined to support Canada's interests. We may be helpful to the American Goliath, but we surely need to stand up. Fortunately, we have enough courage and political clout to do that. Despite what you imply, Canada has the resources and the will to work on the best interests of all people everywhere. Also, why should the U.S. government buy our water and then give it to their citizens, any more than they give their citizens universal health care?

Bob Lombard, Scarborough, Ont



D.E. HESTER is co-chairman of the *Countdown to Canada's Rioley & Saragat* that supply the Great Lakes. Hester hopes there will be many good jobs to be done, such as filling of the James Bay lake, but given the threat to the Great Lakes, investment could probably be found. While we build a gas pipeline from the Arctic to the U.S., maybe we can pipeline plastic to the U.S. to take water from the Mackinac River or one of the northern lakes to the U.S. as well. As Hester notes, we must agree to a Made in Canada solution to this commercial problem, or face a Made in the U.S.A. solution.

Donna M. Blair, Cambridge River, B.C.

I'm only 66, 64 years old, but I have been concerned that the level of water in Lake Huron has dropped. It was always a fairly safe to say the U.S. was securely supplied with oil. According to your article, I wouldn't be so pressed if that was true. If we can't start the U.S. to respect its under NAFTA, how can we expect it to play fair when it comes to one of the most precious resources we have? I'm saying we are perfect. Canadians certainly need to stop reaching their driveways, but please U.S., don't fail our tomorrow, but for the first time we may really need it. Brian Campbell, North Bay, Ont.

Sure, let's sell our water, along with our trees, our oil, our air, and hell, why not our first-born children? Americans will need Canadian bodies to fill their army, too. I mean, they are just going to take what they want anyway and who will, the UN, NAFTA, or some loose treaty and decree to stop them?²

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'Surely someone at McGill can solve the problem of forcing students to pray outside or in the halls'

distributing and filling water to the U.S. does not solve the problem over the long term. The fact is that locations, especially Canadians, tend to waste a lot of water. What we need is a diversity of solutions with water markets as part of a bigger picture. We should take advantage of technology that's available for agricultural water use. We need more work toward conservation and a broader social understanding of what's acceptable. Thanks for a great balanced article.
Nadia Saito, Toronto

The tenor of this article suggests that Canadians are somehow dumb (if we ignore the chairmen of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). The OECD is an association of market economies. Such organizations are often consciously short-sighted in their approach to market economies. To fix one problem by causing another is no solution. Money could indeed be made from selling our water. But, per market terms, what is the price of prudence? Do we understand the risks and the long-term costs? Water should not be seen as a commodity, no matter the good intentions of economists, journalists, or commentators to categorize it as such. Treating it as a commodity suggests you can remove it from its natural location without consequence.
David King, Toronto

Arsons and Nevada's water problems will get progressively worse, and no amount of Canadian water can change that. If we really want to find some long-term solutions, maybe we should acknowledge why anyone overthinks living in a desert was a good idea?
Jeffrey Tap, Annapolis, Ont.

We'll do for the courage to publish thoughts on the sustainability of our water. Despite, or perhaps because of, my career as an aquatic ecologist in Canada, I see no reason why this subject should not be debated. Let's do away with the knee-jerk reaction—often for sale, period—and realize that it is a *resource*, just like so *delectable*, hydrological, general electricity. There's a treasure do market our lives.
Harold Welch, Chandraev, Man.

The spiritual side of life
After reading the article about McGill University and its refusal to allow a space for Muslim students to pray inside ("McGill's prayer

problem," *Education*, Nov. 21), I must say that, as a McGill grad, I was not proud of my alma mater. The laughing, close views expressed by Jennifer Robinson, associate vice-principal of communications, left me angry. These are the same views that existed in the '60s when Sir George Williams was doing war-dance for the Montreal community with its adult education programs while McGill sat silent on the hill. Surely, with a department of *divinity* and a department of Islamic studies on campus, someone can be involved in quickly solving the despicable situation of forcing students to pray outside in the halls. To produce well-rounded graduates should include the spiritual side of life. I am not suggesting the building of a mosque on campus that more "tolerance" is not enough. McGill needs to elevate its thinking to the level of acceptance and respect.
Al-Jamal, Hudson, Que.

Much as I loathe racial stereotyping, lately it seems that Muslims are going out of their way to promulgate views of them being violent and confrontational religion. If we look at how other religions have dealt with secular institutions, as structures where there is no multi-faith chapel available, many will find private places within their religion who will provide the funds for an exclusive place for religious students to meet and pray. Consider article [pro]. They developed an international organization, Wilel, dedicated to the sole cause of offering services to university students. The funding comes from private donors and is dispersed according to need.
Ben Palmer, Port Capetion, B.C.

Bless the beasts

I read Trevor Aubin's article on *foie gras* and am disappointed on the sense of entitlement, selfishness, and apathy in today's society ("Duck if you're still eating *foie gras*," *Times*, Nov. 26). It is this attitude of "I want, I can afford, therefore I will have" that allows people to wear fur, drive SUVs, spray with pesticides, and ignore the less fortunate. I became a vegetarian when I realized that it was my responsibility to care about the Earth, and those I share it with. Here's the bottom line: our by is unacceptable. And complacency is almost worse. Do you really think that any sentient being would enjoy having a tube rammed down its throat to be force-fed massive amounts of food? As for the quote in the article "When the kinder comes in, the duck



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Should Iraq be an issue?



PETER MANNIX

The other day I watched a United States congressman explain how his Florida constituents were feeling about the continuing presence of U.S. troops in Iraq. There's a growing "underbelly of unease," as he described it—a revealing response from a Republican supporter of George W. Bush's Iraq strategy.

Iraq remains one of the most pressing issues on the international stage, and that makes you wonder whether it's an issue for Canadians as well. In last year's election campaign, it did come up—would Stephen Harper or Paul Martin have taken Canada into the war? This year, the debate isn't about whether not going to Iraq was right; it's about whether not going out at night. What Martin or Harper's position is on that remains a mystery. Should it be?

Iraq continues its cycle of chaos, continues to send U.S. troops home in flag-dropped coffins, continues its almost daily round of bombings and kidnappings, and continues not to be the Middle East because of democracy. Bush was convinced it would be when it was 2003 "liberation." It's left Bush with perfectly low approval ratings despite widely held views that the war was, and still is, not right. The past few months have been especially hard on the White House, as the drip, drip, drip of the Scooter Libby and Karl Rove affair further undermines the original reason for going to war.

And then there's the cost—hundreds of billions of dollars the U.S. Treasury doesn't have, and has had to borrow from, of all places, China. That has raised a few people worried about the long-term impact on the U.S. economy. So, should the United States pull out of Iraq, or at least make the decision next year when it will? Just a few months ago, only those on the fringes of the Iraq debate would have suggested an immediate pull-out—now it's become a legitimate topic, argued openly on Capitol Hill, debated on talkshows and, one assumes, in the living rooms of the nation. If it pulled out happened, the Iraqi army and police, some of whom have been taught by Canadians in the relative safety of nearby Jordan, would be left with the task of trying to bring stability to a country where none. Could they handle it is not the question—could they handle it is at least as well as the Americans have, is Bush thinks they're not there yet, partly blaming Western trainers, who, he says, taught too much laissez-faire theory and not enough actual skill. Such a, ha! is how to hold a handgun.

But Bush's explanations don't seem to be

inspiring public opinion, which is heading in the other direction. It's all led to some interesting manoeuvring on the part of prominent U.S. politicians—for example, Bill and Hillary Clinton. Watching the Clinton often becomes an exercise in admiration, no matter how you feel about them. How they position themselves to embrace all possibilities and then almost always benefit from it is quite amazing, and what they've done with Iraq seems to inspire Bill Clinton, who didn't say this when the battle was joined, but now declared that the war was a mistake. This shows a lot of Democrats to claim they too only supported the war because of erroneous information "deliberately" fed to them by the White House. Keeping one foot on the other side of the road is Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, who, prepping for her likely 2008 presidential bid, still needs to look tough. So her position has a twist: she argues that the job in Iraq isn't done yet, and the U.S. shouldn't leave until it is, because handing the country over to the insurgents ultimately poses a threat to the U.S.

Others though, and not just Democrats, are part of that "underbelly of unease," in the

What Martin's or Harper's views are about a U.S. exit strategy remains a mystery

public in Florida described. They want out now, saying there's nothing more that U.S. troops can achieve, that Iraq should be left to Iraqis on its own. Some are even going so far as to say the only solution is to split the country in three: Kurds in the north, Shiites in the south and Sunnis in the middle. Why? Because, they say, only a dictator could keep three such disparate groups at peace in one country. But we all know, that person is a right now—he's on trial for crimes against humanity. Should Canada be debating all this, too? Why not? The United States is our most important ally and our largest trading partner—what happens to it affects us in many different ways. And we are involved, from the training in Jordan to the two Canadian war workers kidnapped in Iraq last week. During the campaign, no one question was asked about Iraq or, for that matter, about anything far right. Not surprising, given the domestic issues that should be at the top of the agenda and will likely stay there until Jan. 23. But this is going to be a long campaign, with many early points to help define the differences between the leaders. Knowing how they feel about a key foreign affairs concern surely wouldn't be a bad thing. ■

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7 DAYS
A LOOK AT THE WEEK OF PUMP



CLINTON WEIGHS IN ON THE BORDER ISSUE, YOUTH CRIME IS ON THE WANE, BUT C. DIFFICILE CONTINUES ITS DEADLY MARCH

BAD NEWS

Now that's Amplify

Enthusiasm for tax cuts gripped both major parties, as the Liberals turned income tax breaks, and the Tories vowed to make a shambles out of the GST. This is the research firm Global Insight reports that the Liberals' habit of producing large surpluses—taking billions from the economy in excess of its needs—has been a drag on growth. Global Insight has

2004, a staggering 1,704 patients in 12 provincial hospitals were infected with the deadly bacteria *C. difficile*. Within a month, 422 patients were dead. Among the *Journal*'s recommendations for prevention was a hand-washing regimen for the hospitals.

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ALL TRIPLES **but** no redemptive doublet! Witness's visit to L'Espresso isn't there.

Prior to reforms in 2003, Canada's justice system paled a high proportion of young offenders than just about any Western nation. A new *StateCan* report finds that the youth cohort has since dropped almost by half, thanks largely to new sentencing guidelines. Doublemindedness toward hoodlums have anything to do with the rash of homicides this year? In fact, another report in July reported a four per cent decline in youth crime, including the rate of violent crime.

Washington's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative would require Canadians and Americans to show passports at the border. In October, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell joined the chorus by saying his "border czar" proposal would be economically "devastating" while doing nothing to prevent terrorism. Last week it was reported that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is now talking with Ottawa about visas, border-crossing alternatives.

rights. It is also interesting that the tribunal caused the gay couple to not anticipate any problem in using a banquet hall not only run by a devout Catholic service group, but decorated with crucifix, a picture of the Virgin Mary, and a likeness of the Pope.

it's now official: there are few more dangerous places on earth than Quebec hospitals. Last week, actually in *The New England Journal of Medicine* reported on their "staggeringly high" level of infections and the attributable mortality rate. In just 25 months, in

Mail and CTV television network, has finally broken. The Thomson family becomes the largest shareholder, with a 40 per cent stake. The *Dominion-Toronto's* Pension Plan and Turner Corp., owner of the *Toronto Star* newspaper, each take 20 per cent, as does BCE Inc., down from 60.3 per cent. If approved, the deal puts two of the biggest papers in the southern Ontario market in bed together, along with the biggest private television network. That increasing buzzword "convergence" may finally be dead, but consolidation in the media business continues.



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Michelle Jean dissolved Parliament, issued the election writ and began decorating Bessie Hall with what a GG spokesman referred to as a "holiday tree." That same day, a more senior aide made the coronation Christmas trees, doing Jean's bidding. "From my earliest memories it was always a Christmas tree. Keep it simple." Yet, in the first issue of *Sage*, a glossy magazine that celebrates the power and influence of Canada's black community, cover girl Jean said, "My deepest concern is about exclusion."

DISCOVERY

Foaming at the boob

In what is being billed as an engrossing first, scientists reported that the lightness and strength of the breast's mammary boob is due to an egg, then-like user care. Noting how a plant bursted so Welter's in 1990, the researchers said their work could result in synthetic fabrics for use in aircraft, planes and vehicles.



SECRET INSIGHTS FROM

Protein's all you need

Scientists in Paris, Italy, have identified the protein responsible for the symptoms of ruminant love. During the first three days of exposure, less is of course growth factor disorder. Within the first year of a relationship, though, they drop off, along with that feeling of euphoria. The feeling moment turns into something called "compensatory love." This last, thankfully, lasts longer.

World's tiniest hole

A tiny hole of bacteria has been found as small as 50 microns in diameter. Engineers at Cardiff University in Wales have used electron-microscopy to drill holes less than half that size. The holes they've drilled are quite possible the smallest in the world. Later on, make small holes, the researchers say, but of lesser quality. They report their technology could yield major benefits for medical imaging and electronics design.

Breastfeeding fix

Breastfeeding may help reduce stress in newborns. Researchers in Montreal gathered 50 women who were nursing or bottle-feeding and assigned them to either a group of 25 who were given a speech or solving a math problem. The nursing room had lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol in their saliva.

WILD KINGDOM

Birds do it, bees do it

A beekeeping professor at Caltech has unraveled the physics of bee flight, solving a mystery that has long eluded scientists. One expert in the 19th century bee flight was technically impossible. The Caltech team used high-speed photography and a robotic model to find the exact forces at work: short strokes, a quadrilateral of the wing is a change in direction, and a very fast wing-beat frequency. They've proved conclusively that the phenomenon observed in bees is, in fact, flying.

Panda's debut

The latest giant panda to be born in a zoo and survive passed its first year (including Nicole Kidman and some of her friends) for the first time at the Washington home. Two-year-old Tai Shan is already practicing adult panda moves such as clomping back and forth and gripping bamboo stalks in his paws. At 190 lb., he's a little heavy for his age.

THE BEAR: His fourth-year Washington debut.



Pony ride from hell

Two imprisoned pirates bolted from the Santa Clara parade in Pensacola, Calif., taking a seven-year-old girl with them. They drove her grandmother from the carriage and ran over her legs before crashing into a pole. A police officer jumped into the carriage and extracted the child before chasing the ponies down on his motorcycle.

Bird with dino toes

A small 150-million-year-old bird fossil uncovered in Montana, Germany, appears to have feet like those of theropods, bolstering the theory that birds came from these dinosaurs. The specimen is a well-preserved archosaur, the last known bird. Researcher says it could control movement like the dinosaur's (a wing of theropod). Their findings also suggest that archosaurs is less like modern birds than scientists had thought.

Bulletproof orange

Deer hunting season is under way in Pennsylvania, and a hunter in the town of Lagerton has hit upon a novel way to protect his livestock from accidental bullets. He's painting his cows, horses, goats and even his dog orange. A few years ago, a neighbor's dog was hit by a stray bullet. But Kowalski can be sure his animals won't be mistaken for a deer, or anything else.

MORTALITY

Blame it on mom

Two U.S. studies found that women who gain an inordinate amount of weight during pregnancy run a higher risk of having obese children. Calorie restriction, exercise, and nutrition, seems to be the key, however, and researchers noting that women who gain less than the recommended weight run a greater risk for problems, including premature labor.



CREDIT: could be a hole? Forward in the work.

Don't eat the bats

An international team of scientists has found evidence of Ebola infection in fruit bats, suggesting the creature may be a natural reservoir for the Ebola virus. The virus was discovered in 1976, but scientists have only now found a possible reservoir. The bats did not show symptoms. Fruit bats are eaten in some parts of Africa.

MONEY

High price of air

A pair of developers in New York City have set a record for "air rights," purchasing unused airspace from two buildings at Park Avenue and East 60th Street. The developers will pay for their future neighbors, a church and a glass-fronted store, US\$47 million, or a record US\$450 per square foot. In return, the brothers got permission to build their tower, which also will be taller than zoning laws allow.

Made-up moneybags

The son of the Forbes Billionaire 53, an author says, to protect a financial ranking of the rich is to turn currencies into debt and blood for a change, rather than the other way around. The hit of the wealthy ranges from Giddy Warbucks to Fred Flomper to Gaudy De V. Thomson who says the hit is a popular figure this season. Santa Claus.

THE WORLD'S HELP DESK

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7 DAYS

THE WEEK AHEAD: YEAR-END AWARDS SHOWS

Guests at the Nobel Peace Prize show this weekend may wonder if they've wandered into the fall-themed Movie Awards. The affair to fetter Malcolmed Elmandici will be hosted by Julianne Moore and Salma Hayek and stars Dusan Derran and Sigalobos. (No canons from Nobel legends of yore at Tuesday's Billboard Awards.) Monday's Turner Prize show in London could also be sobering. In 2001 the winner, potter Garyson Perry, appeared in his art-as-go, Claire, as a purple truck.

POLL WATCH

But who works more?

Public sector employees in Quebec have paid 15 per cent less, on average, than people with comparable jobs in the private sector. Factoring in benefits and vacations, the spread is 12.5 per cent, except in comparison with unionized private-sector workers, whose government employees make 25 per cent less. That's according to a yearly review by the *Journal de la matrasque du Quebec*, published last week. In 2008, when BQ started keeping records, public sector employees were ahead on every count.

Plus, parking's free

In an AOL poll of more than 6,200 shoppers, 49 per cent said it's becoming too expensive to drive to shops, leading them to buy online. The annual survey found that shoppers are willing to spend, on average, as much as US\$1,040 on a single season, up on three and they've bought luxury items online. Men spend more than women, and the study ranked No. 1 for Internet shopping? Target.

IN PASSING

Stevie Borenstein, 62, illustrator and the co-creator, with his wife, Jan, of the beloved Borenstein Bears. The couple wrote more than 150 books on the series, which they initially developed with Theodore Geisel—Ernest.

Phony McCannell Ellison, 91, theatre director and chameleon actor. She earned Ralph Ellison, whom she met through Lucie Arnaz Hughes, and helped edit his iconic book, *Invincible Man*.

Tony Neenan, 62, original drummer of the influential Welsh instrumental pop band the Supertramp. They married their cover backing singer Chiff Richard.

IN OTHER NEWS

Extreme facelift

French surgeons have performed the world's first partial face transplant, and so far it's a success. The subject is a woman whose face was left disfigured after a dog attack last spring. Her injuries made it difficult for her to take care of herself. She received a triangular graft, consisting of the chin, lips and nose of an anonymous brain-dead donor, whose family consented to the operation.

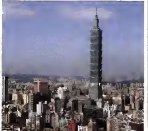
Get Mayor McCheese

A Wendy's employee named Ronald MacDonald has been charged with stealing from a safe at the restaurant where he worked. The 27-year-old MacDonald had a co-conspirator, the man previously named Steve Leroy. Both were caught by the store manager at \$1,300 a re on Nov. 28.

May cause quakes

The world's tallest building can now lay claim to another distinction: it may have caused two recent earthquakes and caused a very stable area around Taiwan's capital to undergo seismic movement.

TARGET 100: sweeping the sky, distorting the ground.



The Taipei 101 skyscraper is a 1,667-foot-high concrete-and-steel structure whose three bulging-wings (700,000 sq ft) might be placing great stress on the ground below. Some experts have said the building's delicate, spiky design might cause a deep quake.

Wanted: hot men

A severe shortage of male models in Chicago is causing opportunities for handsome men from other parts of the country. Judges at a regional Mr. India contest reported recently that few local men appear to become models. Only seven candidates on their short list of 30 were from the city, and some of them were weak on computer work as in the online round. Some believe pay equity could alleviate the shortage. Female models earn significantly more than their counterparts.

Shhh...we're voting

Radio-Canada has pulled a no-hair bio pic of Rene Levesque that was slated to run in early January, during the campaign. It says it doesn't want to interfere with the election. Similarly, the CBC has just pulled a series on Timmy Duggan until after the vote. Blame it on an on-

air Canada, then? Or perhaps it's a former criminal tied to current campaign jobs he says, who might compare unfavorably with the two.



Illustration: Joe Greenhouse

Still going

Worldwide sales of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books have topped 700 million copies. The series titles have been translated into 47 languages, most recently French, though the author's agent announced that a third of the books were sold in the United States.

Is my brain fat?

Researchers at University College in London have started the study of the brain, responsible for body image. The way we see our bodies is governed by a region of the posterior cortex. A problem with this area could explain disorders such as anorexia. Mapping the region could also, researchers hope, help treat them.

Mitzvahmania!

For Elizabeth Berkova's 13th birthday, her father, a New York City coroner who made his fortune in bulletproof vests, threw a \$10-million, carding-always party for his friends (and hers) at the Ritz-Bar Room. David Benioff flew in Tim Perry and 50 Cent for the evening. Members of the Eagles and Fleetwood Mac also performed. The loot bags, filled with digital cameras and video photo, may have offset the worst effects of seeing Papi Berkova leap on stage in a metal straitjacket last her shift to join her mother. R.

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INTERVIEW



The idea that suburban developments are ugly is 'an opinion propagated by an intellectual elite. I don't think most people feel that way.'

ROBERT BRUEGMANN TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE

The phrase "urban sprawl" describes those vast regions of suburbs, acreages, office parks and industrial complexes pushing out from our cities into the countryside. It is an eminently pejorative term. The seemingly boundless reach of our cities has attracted the ire of planners, academics, authors and novelists—it is one of the more frequently lamented phenomena of our times. In answer to these many critics, Robert Bruegmann has just published *Sprawl & Concept: History, Theory, and a Profusion of Art, History, Architecture, and Urban Planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago*.

Some argue that the costs of suburban development are inequitably shared among ratepayers in municipalities. That municipalities use more services and more expensive services—but pay the same taxes as suburban and don't get fair.

That could be perfectly correct. But if it is, the logical solution is to change the rate structure rather than change the whole city. And that's true with most of the criticisms of sprawl—if it isn't a problem, it's usually much easier to solve that problem than it is to try to put the city back to its 19th-century form so that you don't have the problem to begin with.

The charge of environmental damage would seem to be one of the more difficult to argue against, simply because suburban developments do use a lot of land and require more resources.

Possibly, but let's look at it from a different angle. The notion that you'd have a very dense city that's environmentally friendly is very difficult to sustain. A whole bunch of apartment buildings that rely on big, central heat and energy systems for all the heating and cooling and electricity, and everything, essentially, contrast, let's say everybody lived at two-story densities. What could happen if they got all their energy on-site—a geothermal, wind, solar? You wouldn't need those huge systems of waste water treatment and water

delivery. You could have a more-or-less sufficient land of situation. My point is there is nothing inherently environmentally friendly about the city as opposed to low-density living. It's simply a matter of what those problems are and how we solve them. So, for example, driving. There's nothing wrong with the car—the car's the most efficient means of mass transit the world has ever devised. The thing that's wrong with it is that it was this 19th-century technology of fossil fuels killing an eternal carbon-based city.

The third objection was that suburbs are socially inequitable—that suburban developments allow the affluent to flee the city, leaving everyone else to deal with its problems.

But blaming sprawl for that doesn't explain much. You have the very same inequities when you have large cities with few suburbs, or when you have very, very small cities with massive suburbs. The problem here is that the solution that a lot of people would like to see—a massive redistribution of wealth—isn't going to happen, nor matter what the physical arrangement is. That's a political and social choice that society needs to make. It's not something that will be solved by simply rearranging the population on the ground.

I suppose you could argue that a massive redistribution of wealth might just allow more people to flee suburban areas for poorer parts of the city. But that's the view that a lot of land and sprawl

delivered. You could have a more-or-less sufficient land of situation. My point is there is nothing inherently environmentally friendly about the city as opposed to low-density living. It's simply a matter of what those problems are and how we solve them. So, for example, driving. There's nothing wrong with the car—the car's the most efficient means of mass transit the world has ever devised. The thing that's wrong with it is that it was this 19th-century technology of fossil fuels killing an eternal carbon-based city.

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I suppose you could argue that a massive redistribution of wealth might just allow more people to flee suburban areas for poorer parts of the city. But that's the view that a lot of land and sprawl

people like, and how it operates. By mobility, I mean social as well as physical mobility. And by choice I mean you have a wide range of possibilities for the way you live and work and play. You might also be able to get those if you had your own car or money. We could live in a single family house in the middle of, let's say, Manhattan, or you could live in a co-op building with a doorman and have a car at the ready to take you wherever you wanted to go, but for most people the way to get those things within their own budgets is to have a little house out in the urban periphery.

What I was trying to get at was that the desire for a suburban experience seems to cut across class lines. It's not only the wealthy who want to live in suburbs.

A Oh, right. And that's worldwide. Whenever people are polled, they reiterate they want to live in high-apartment buildings. People, ordinary people, want a single family house on its own piece of land. Why do so many people want this when the answer seems to be their suburban development was ugly?

I don't think that is the general consensus. You hear it a lot but it's an opinion propagated by an intellectual elite. I don't think most people feel that way.

What's your view?

Well, let's assume for a moment that many people today think that these suburban developments are ugly. I'm reasonably sure, based on history, that 50 years from now, when these same cities go out and find a wonderfully new original big box Wal-Mart circa 2005, they'll want to convert it as a historic or architectural landmark, exactly the way we're doing with the buildings of the 1950s now. Outside London in the 19th century there were miles and miles of back row houses that we now take to be the very epitome of correct London. Those houses were almost universally decimated by the intellectual elite of that day as hopelessly ugly boxes built by greedy speculators and inhabited by people living in squalor, unsanitary, and filthy lives. So in other words, the complaints are always the same, and they always change after a generation or two.

I suppose it would be hard to tell that these dense ridges of new suburban homes every year if the public actually thought they were ugly of course.

What is it, then, that is particularly appealing about suburban life? How do suburban in your book that doughnut-happy people have fled the city for suburbs or exurbs as soon as they've been able to afford it. Why at all?

Well, sprawl allows ordinary middle- and even lower-income people to have privacy, mobility, and choice that were once available only to the wealthy. By privacy I mean control over one's environment, the ability to say who can be there and who can't, and what it

looks like, and how it operates. By mobility, I mean social as well as physical mobility. And by choice I mean you have a wide range of possibilities for the way you live and work and play. You might also be able to get those if you had your own car or money. We could live in a single family house in the middle of, let's say, Manhattan, or you could live in a co-op building with a doorman and have a car at the ready to take you wherever you wanted to go, but for most people the way to get those things within their own budgets is to have a little house out in the urban periphery.

Another argument against sprawl is that it tends to displace the core of a city. People and money spread to the peripheries of modern cities and prevent downtown from taking on the social and cultural characteristics of great cities. The claim is that we suffer as a society from these trends.

Yeah, sure. And you can answer it in two ways. You could say that the culture of the city, with its openness and art movements, was always an elite culture, and that if that's all the citizens of France—including the least affluent—have to pay taxes to support an opera they should not care less about. I think a better answer is that one thing doesn't preclude another. Over the past 50 years, you have this burgeoning concern about sprawl at the edges of cities, but we've also seen an absolutely astonishing resurgence of some of the most important cities. They are gentrifying dramatically, with new restaurants and new high and cultural amenities. For instance, San Francisco has had tremendous amounts of sprawl but it has also been most recently vital at the center. And that's true of Chicago or Toronto or Paris or London.

So cities can call Chicago to be as grand as they want.

Q Yeah, but those choices are more voluntary now. We tend to look back through rose-tinted glasses at the great cities. We think they were wonderful places. In fact, for most people living in, let's say, Chicago in the early 19th century, it would have been extremely unpleasant. Think of all the pollution and the congestion of industrial cities. But people had no choice. They had to live there, they wouldn't go very far because they couldn't afford to get to work. As soon as they had the choice, they got a house and a car. The argument that this happens and you have a whole lot of people leaving the city, you have the possibility that the city could be filled up with people who really want to live there. And I think that's, in great part, what we've seen happening in these resurgence cities.

You've got some interesting data in the book on urban density. The general perception is that cities are densely populated and suburbs

aren't. You've found something like the Western world has been declining in density at the core. There is a tremendous example of it in a third of all populations. We don't tend to notice that because the buildings remain pretty much the same, but when people become affluent, even if they're in the city center, they want more space, and they can pay for it, and they do. Meanwhile, density has been increasing at the edges of many cities. One of the things that surprised me most is the way Los Angeles has increased its density. Los Angeles never had a really dense downtown the way New York or Toronto or Chicago did, it was always spread out. But its density is increasing in the core as well as at the edge.



'Sprawl allows ordinary middle- and lower-income people to have privacy and choice'

Throughout the United States—and I mean as this is true in Canada—the density at the suburban edge is actually going up because there are many, many more apartments and row houses going up at the very edge, and also smaller lots than they had in the 1950s. So as a lot of cities now, especially newer ones, the difference in density between the urban core and the edge is negligible.

Where did you grow up?
Suburban Pittsburgh.
Where do you live now?
I live very close to in Chicago.
So, urban?

Yeah, I live in a 55-year high glass-walled apartment building. H



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This election is all about Stephen Harper, and whether he'll be trusted to lead. His campaign stumbled early, then found its feet. Photos by Peter Bregg.

For much of the week Harper clearly understood that. He worked hard to seem utterly prepared for the rigors of office. But first he had to make sure of some unadorned business. Or remind everyone of it. Or something. It was all a bit baffling.



ing instruct for travel he had on a Tuesday evening, less than an hour after Paul Martin had emerged from Rideau Hall and announced that the combined efforts of a united opposition had put the country on track to a Jan. 13 election. The Liberal leader took a few questions, and then the cameras switched to

It was all very brisk and tidy. Time for a change, Harper said. An end to corruption. A brighter future. Check. Check. Check. It wasn't until the questions that Harper was looking for trouble. The topic, of course, was same-sex marriage. Harper could easily have dodged it. One reporter asked about it, another almost inadvertently asked about a less than-thriving town. Harper took the second question. Then

"We were concerned at the time of the [party policy] convention and through the last debate to put a free vote to the most Parliament on this issue," he said. "Citizens can vote as they want. We will simply ask the House, through a motion, whether they want the government to table legislation on the marriage issue, to change the definition of marriage. If that motion is defeated we won't proceed. If it is passed, we will proceed." Gay couples who have been married in Canada wouldn't be an married, he added.

Harper had to know his gay-marriage comments would eclipse anything else he had to say that day. Still, he pressed on to his first campaign rally in the west-end Ottawa neighbourhood of John Ward, a granite-faced young former Ontario Tory cabinet minister who's running for the Harper Conservatives.

Harper's endless pre-campaign harangues against Liberal corruption was now reduced to a paragraph or two. But what really riled



On not Wednesday morning, the Jacques Carner room of the Faampes Le Châneau

Hold that thought: We'll get back to it. Of more immediate interest was why some of the local candidates was speaking. Oh, for that

Family Harper's event ended, and the little knot of inattentive keynotes dispersed. Reporters kept up to ask further questions: A dainty, gilded grey-haired man who had been in the audience straddled a flimsy screen.

Gross, to whom public prosecutors could crack down on Adams' crash? Mackay blazed: "There's no way that this office, being set up after the fact, is going to have anything to do with the sponsorship pro-



Chen is at a campaign rally in Waterloo. With a promise to cut the GST, a controversial 15% tax on imports, Harcourt was turning Chinese around, and rebuking the Libs.

Oddly, the theme was corruption again. But at least Harper was announcing something new: an independent "office of the de-

In Halifax, we were met by Peter MacKay, one of the two big draws, along with Nova Scotia Premier John Harris, for a rally at the

So Harper's first full day of campaigning had entailed two events. At the first, he had shown that he didn't know his candidates. At the second, his party's most senior proctor had chastised him on the topic of prosecutors. A banner day.

And more to come: In the bus to Halifax airport, the TV reporters learned that Harris had snuck off to give an interview to ATV without telling us. And that in the interview he had apologized for the comments he once made about a "culture of defiance" in the Atlantic provinces. If you really want to make a bus full of reporters angry, tell them their

as paying the Conservative Party of Canada \$1,800 a day to let them send their leads while the candidate trails off to the way seen for free to someone else. "Now in the tape, we told the Harper staff: Give us a transcript. They protested that they couldn't."

It was time for desperate measures. So I asked the Liberals "Your assignment," I typed into my BlackBerry as we walked onto the airport tarmac. "Get us a transcript of Harper's interview with *ADV* before the Harper campaign can." Twenty-three minutes later, as the Harper jet wanted up to fly to Toronto, my BlackBerry buzzed. Two Liberals had sent transcripts of the Harper interviews.

That night at the Pearson airport strip outside Toronto, we stayed at a hotel where some of the teams were already. They had several reporters down the street. Inevitable conversation with our bosses, a half dozen of us proclaimed that the Harper campaign was already a disaster. But our assignment may have been premature.

The next morning at 3001 Audio Video in Whitby, Ont., Harper wandered in, slipped a

spoke, I asked that from when I started Harper's hair was perfectly framed in the clear plastic screen of the television. He now looks everywhere. The Conservative leader appeared to be speaking to me from inside a hole said. So I asked whether I looked as word to him as he did to me.

"Let me just say take it as you will—you look no different than usual," he said.

Now, I'm not going to claim that the way to get your political mojo back is to turn me

The Liberal plan, meanwhile, is probably to play rope-a-dope as the challenger boxes to the end of his stamina

into your straight man. But from that moment forward the Harper campaign seemed to have found a disarming but sensible groove. The GST announcement got good reviews. On Friday, Harper announced a health care policy argued strongly by the Kirby Senate report on health care—that would favor provinces to transport patients to nearby jurisdiction if they couldn't deliver timely care—and broadly seemed to the Liberals' own health policy (UD Weekly, offered up by the GPs, had no killer scenario). After missing

anecdotes that nobody wants. We don't even have a PQ government in Quebec City. We have, in Quebec City, Premier Jean Charest." Got it. My infatuation about economic while good federalists are in office in Quebec. Except that's not what Harper used to believe. In 1994, Daniel Johnson was still the federal premier of Quebec. Jacques Parizeau was in charge until September of that year. But already in June, Harper, who was the Reform party's national unity critic, had no patience for the idea that straight talk might put Que-

bec under a hardy man. We don't even have a PQ government in Quebec City. We have, in Quebec City, Premier Jean Charest." Got it. My infatuation about economic while good federalists are in office in Quebec. Except that's not what Harper used to believe. In 1994, Daniel Johnson was still the federal premier of Quebec. Jacques Parizeau was in charge until September of that year. But already in June, Harper, who was the Reform party's national unity critic, had no patience for the idea that straight talk might put Que-



MIXED SIGNAL



blue "GST/UPS '95" sign over the green "GST/UPS '95" sign on the cash register, and announced the Conservatives' big ticket economic plank, a two-stage reduction of the federal tax. There have been rumors for five years that somebody would try to beat the Liberals with such a ploy. For five years, economists have been saying it's bad policy because it encourages consumption instead of investment. I asked Harper about it and he argued, in effect, that this wasn't a bag, it was a lifetime

"If your purpose is to have a broadly based, progressive reduction that will stimulate consumption, I challenge any economist to say there's any better way to do it than this." As

the 2004 campaign on the theme of "this man will destroy nations," seemed a good idea now to reveal to "they, he said, no plan." By the end of the first week, Harper had driven the news every day. He had made his way from Halifax to Vancouver—hopping over Alberta's main interstellar news report of the St. John's-to-Vancouver marathon that Paul Martin used to end the 2004 campaign. Martin, meanwhile, had slipped around Quebec and Ontario, waiting for Harper to speak and then saying it was bad. That's probably the Liberal plan: play rope-a-dope while the challenger boxes to the end of his stamina. But for good and ill, Harper made some early yards in the crucial trial of defining himself

bes federalists' nose out of joint. "Unfortunately we have to face the reality as it has been," he said. "We have a party in the House which, day after day, talking about the most dramatic and wide-ranging constitutional change possible." Quebec's economic

Lies, which after Parizeau's election, Harper said the government should "make clear to the people of Quebec that when they are being told that separation can be achieved unilaterally that this is legally untrue." He made himself a lot of fun for making those words when they weren't popular. Now Harper seeks political advantage in arguing the opposite. Paul Martin hasn't the ally to recall the Conservative leader looks hard at running against. M



Off to a dead heat

A new Maclean's survey shows a tight race nationwide, but a rout underway in Quebec

BY JONATHAN CATHERINE • The outcome of the January 21 federal election is up for grabs in Quebec, but already a foregone conclusion in Quebec, according to a new Maclean's poll. After a week on the hustings, the ruling Liberals and the opposition Conservatives find themselves in a statistical dead-end outside of La Belle Province—40 per cent to 37 per cent of decided voters. And while English Canadians seem less than enthralled about their options—Stephen Harper and Paul Martin are rated as "inspiring" by just 11 and 10 per cent respectively—the early advantage appears to be tilting toward the Blues. The official opinion polls don't bear holding or soon support (and on the 2004 vote, mismanagement out of it, versus just three or four for the Liberals, and a making gains in key policy areas like taxation, crime and U.S.-Canada relations. And perhaps most surprisingly, the two parties are almost tied on health care, the issue that scored many voters away from casting a ball for the Conservatives in past campaigns.

"It's a worry for the Liberals," says Greg Lyle, managing director of Innovations Research Group, the firm conducting Maclean's weekly series of telephone and Internet opinion surveys. "The last election was such a home run, and if you are dropping a man of your party that your competitors are going to a real dead heat."

If the numbers are worrying for Paul Martin nationally, they are catastrophic in Quebec. The Bloc Québécois now holds a 21-point lead over the Liberals with the support of 32 per cent of decided voters. Sixty-two per cent

of Quebec respondents describe the Prime Minister as "corrupt" and just as many can't find him "inspiring," while 60 per cent say Bloc chief Gilles Duceppe is a "strong lead." A greater percentage of Quebecers intend to vote Bloc than elsewhere in the country. The Liberals' recent strategy to target voters for the Bloc, a vote for sovereignty shows no indications of success. "Voters don't find Duceppe to be particularly scary," says Lyle. "And Quebecers are sophisticated enough to know that the guy going to Ottawa doesn't do the separation." While the Bloc will never run the table in the province, thanks to its anglophone and allophone ridings in Montreal and western Quebec, they stand to make gains if the trend

holds. Colton Heston, who barely squeaked to victory in 2004, are prime targets, as is Martin's Quebec lieutenant Jean Lapierre.

The weekly series of Maclean's surveys presents the results of a one-time telephone poll and an ongoing online poll. The phone survey, which had 300 randomly selected participants, was conducted between Nov. 20 and 26, and has a margin of error of ± 3.5 per cent, 18 times out of 20. The Canada 20/20 online poll begins with a sample of more than 5,000 Canadians each to meet. The same group of participants will be asked questions about key issues and their voting intentions throughout the campaign. This week's representative sample of 1,140 eligible voters has been weighted according to 2005 Census data and is considered accurate within ± 3.7 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Although the media fire Christmas season election campaigns put off to a relatively slow start, the polls are already seeing that trend repeat itself for years. The state of the health care system, a perennial worry, tops the list in both Quebec and the rest of Canada, with 44 per cent ranking it the most important concern. Also at the summit of issues in Quebec, the environment, sovereignty, and provincial autonomy are other main voter priorities. In

Sixty-two per cent of Quebecers describe Paul Martin as 'corrupt.' Just six per cent 'inspiring.'

the run of Canada, ethics is the Number 2 issue, followed by taxation and the economy.

One issue that no longer appears to be a priority is same-sex marriage. The Liberals used it as a wedge in 2004, and Harper began



PHOTO TOP BY JONATHAN CATHERINE; BOTTOM BY PETER MARTIN/MACLEAN'S

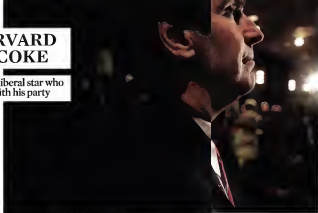
FROM HARVARD TO ETOBICOKE

Michael Ignatieff is a Liberal star who doesn't always agree with his party

BY JOHN GERRARD • Considering that Michael Ignatieff is used to rapt audiences of adoring students, he handled the occasion, largely hostile crowd, at his nomination meeting as a Liberal candidate in Toronto last week pretty smoothly. He didn't seem rattled when, as he spoke after devotion to Canada, angry audience members shouted "Assimilate! Assimilate!" (He's leaving a job at a Harvard University professor position to come to Canada and run in the federal election.) He played right on talking about his long advocacy of human rights through bouts of "Bicentennial" (He has written the "legitimate interpretation" can involve "isolation and some non-physical stress.") And he kept his cool despite scattered cries of "illegal war!" (He supported the invasion of Iraq, perhaps the most prominent liberal author to do so.)

By his own standards, those who showed up to protest Ignatieff's nomination at Etobicoke Lakeshore touched, however crudely, on a quite impressive range of his positions. But there's more, much more. Even most academics, as he continued jumping into Canadian politics after his long career as a high-profile media star in Britain and the U.S., Ignatieff has been speaking out fearlessly. Among proponents of his that you won't find in the official Liberal platform, unless the Senate appointment process and set up a special commission on the fiscal imbalance between Ottawa and the provinces. He's gone so far as to broadly criticize the Liberal Party of Canada itself, keeping it up with the Conservatives as an increasingly not up to the challenges of cheapening federalism in Quebec as the threat of another national unity crisis grows.

The real grip of those incidents, though, was that Ignatieff was being purchased into something in a media game that didn't give him any of the respect or respectability that he deserved. In a constituency with a large Ukrainian-Canadian population, his writing on Ukraine made the sudden imposition of a celebrity aside the one issue getting. But Ignatieff was adept, even emotional, in refusing accusations he was just another Ukrainian. In fact, a free reading of the controversial chapter on Ukraine in his 1995 book *Blood and*



QUEBEC POLITICS: Ignatieff admits he has to learn what he can and can't say

Bleeding shows it to be a subtle understatement on nationalism in the context of the Ukrainian experience under Soviet domination in the 20th century. He had to see over the crowd by talking about how he once took his children to see a place where Ukrainians were unjustly treated in Canada during the Second World War. About a third walked out to his spoke way. Still, Ignatieff won his nomination uncontested, subject to appeal, and ended as one of the most-watched new Liberals up for election—rated by his fans as a future prime minister. Unlike other star candidates, like former senator Marc Garneau, who is running near Montreal, Ignatieff climbs onto the political stage dragging a huge body of books, articles and speeches—lots of them capable of sparking bitter argument. In a brief interview in his bookstore, after he stepped out of the weekly nomination meeting by a side door, avoiding the cameras on stage, he asked about his nomination. Born in Toronto, son of a famous Canadian diplomat, Ignatieff, 45, deflected himself as a loyal Canadian with every right to stand the other in his homeland, even after decades abroad. "Let's clear up a few things. I have never held another citizenship. I have never gone up any Canadian citizenship," he said. "Cheap anti-Americanism is a serious issue in politics."

On making the transition from liberal

thinker to Liberal candidate, he admitted he has to learn what he can and can't say. Asked about Ignatieff's support for the Iraq war, Prime Minister Paul Martin repeated last week that the governing party remains opposed to it, but said individual Liberals are "entitled to express their opinion." Well, Ignatieff has expressed plenty of them, and admits he hasn't started out just where they clash with

He's criticized the Liberals for not being up to the challenge of promoting federalism in Quebec

his new party's glorified. "It's terribly embarrassing—I don't always know the party line," he said. "But I'm a team player. You don't get as slow if you're not a team player. As long as it's not prohibited, I'll be more careful. There's no strategy of provocation."

Maybe not, but much of what he has had to say is provocative anyway. In a speech at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto last spring, he didn't see the Liberals any slacker when he took aim at all the federal parties as increasingly impotent in Quebec. And he

warned that weakening federalism before the upcoming scandal accumulated that Liberal brand in the province. "The reason I'm of our parties is to create national coalitions," he said. "The current capacity of all of our federal parties to do this has been weakened for 20 years. The reasons why are complete failures of leadership, indifference to ideas, a hollowing out of the parties themselves, their slow decline from vehicles of policy and confidence-building to professional election machines. But whatever the reasons, each of our national parties is now at risk of becoming merely a regional or sectional or sectoral group, rather than a national coalition."

Some critics argue the real problem with Liberal Ottawa is that, in this era of federal budgetary surplus, it isn't spending power to distribute the province. Martin denies this, saying that federalism is not a zero-sum game. He has called for a royal commission to "revitalize federalism for the 21st century." What that commission would amount to is unclear, however, since he also said, in a speech last June to federal businessmen: "We need to ensure that the federal government's revenue capacity and effective areas of jurisdiction remain what they are now."

One politically sensitive reason why he suggested Ottawa should change its approach is the way employment insurance and equalization funds flow to Atlantic provinces. "In

the Maritime recently, I was struck by the number of people who find the rhetoric of equalization condescending," he said in that speech to public servants. "It is the only way to help the Maritimes in the long run is to attract it, even when it means diversifying the hard work Maritimers have always been ready to put in." This argument about Stephen Harper's 2002 remark about "dependence in the region that breeds a culture of dependency"—for which the Tory leader was vilified on the East Coast.

Of course, Ignatieff's quantity isn't federal provincial relations, it's international affairs and human rights. Although he has

'As I get a bit more polished, I'll be more careful. There's no strategy of provocation.'

been a bestselling author for many years, after the Sept. 11 attacks his views gained more prominence. When he supported George W. Bush's ousting of Saddam Hussein, Ignatieff was portrayed as a liberal hawk when it came to terrorism. Yet he is a critic of the U.S. government's post-Sept. 11 law to combat it. "Legislation obviously responds to attacks by giving police additional powers whether they stand there or not," he wrote in last year's *The Lesser Evil*. "Either it is an Age of Terror. After Sept. 11, he argued, "these aggressive police powers have been hastily created, in the U.S. and Canada's Bill C-36, for example, and they do not seem to keep search-and-seizure, arrest, and surveillance power under sufficiently close judicial control." Deputy Prime Minister Avon M. Lewis, Martin's political secretary, however, has recently declined Bill C-36 human rights critics who call it a threat to civil liberties.

Ignatieff's interest in filling positions which minorities find themselves threatened with increases his name of Canada's minorities. He is sympathetic to group rights, but argues that individual rights must trump them. In 1997's *The Illusion of Diversity*, after leaving "several groups" in Canada and Australia among minority communities that rightly insist on speaking for themselves, he goes on to caution: "The problem, however, is that we are being empowered—the individuals in these groups are merely their spokesmen or leaders. Empowerment that individualizes, that allows individual members of minority groups to articulate their own experience and sever respect from the majority, is one thing; empowerment that simply consolidates the hold of the group on the individual and that locks individuals in virtually to another 'It

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STORMY MEETINGS There was anger over Ignatieff being pummeled in

seconds like Ignatieff might side with those who are skeptical about some of the First Nations leaders who secured billions more in federal funding under recent Keweenaw, B.C., summit with Martin and the premiers.

On Quebec, Ignatieff brings the hard head of perspective of an author who has done his own hot spot reporting on embattled minorities, from the front lines of the former Yugoslavia to Iraq's Kurdistan region. He sets a high bar for Ignatieff, one that leads him to reject the claims of Quebec's sovereignty as "apocryphal." His standard for a justifiable case to secede: "total and recurrent killing." It's about that for clarity? "It's cases like Quebec," he writes, "where there is no history of killing. It is hard to see how past injustice could justify the high cost of separation to both sides."

And if he rejects separatism on the market terms, he doesn't see much point in constitutional tinkering either. "Many Quebecers do not feel they have ever taken full psychological and emotional possession of the federal state, and look to the creation of their own to feel the final sense of being masters in their own house," he wrote in 2000's *The Alpha Revolution*. "If this is the issue, then further constitutional evolution in Canada is a waste of time. Further concessions are beside the point." Yet he doesn't doubt Quebecers feel profoundly upset. In *Blood and Belonging*, Ignatieff poignantly wishes that French and English Canadians "had actually lived the same nation and not merely cohabited the same state."

For Canadian politicians, outside the Bloc Québécois—certainly no other government federal Liberal—would admit to regarding Canada as so starkly divided.

All this makes Ignatieff an interesting guy to watch and debate. But if all he makes being in the MP for Stikine Centre, it doesn't matter much. Even winning the seat is not a given. Along with that weekly nomination meeting, he fired questions last week about his decision to Canadian politics. A Harvard student paper quoted him as saying he wanted to return to the Ivy League school if he wasn't elected. But Ignatieff said he was only joking, that he's committed to Canada no matter what, and will take up a post at the University of Toronto once if he doesn't get elected to Parliament Hill.

His backers are not only sure he's heading to Ottawa, but straight into cabinet. If Martin's career is cut short by a poor showing in this election, Ignatieff would be on the short list of contenders to replace him. Asked if he expects to live at 24 Sussex Drive, Ignatieff doesn't so much deny the ambition, as scoff at the notion of looking so many moves ahead. "Take that off the table," he said. "Look, on Saturday morning, I woke up and decided I wanted to try for the nomination in Stikine-Lake Umbagog. By Wednesday night, I'm fighting for any political life in a hotel. I'd be a fool to try to plan what's going to happen tomorrow." That sounds sensible enough. That is for taking anything off the table—yet once close to.

FOR THE RECORD

THIS IS THE REASON TO BE NASTY

The hyperbole flew fast and furious last week as party leaders prepared for a Christmas election. "It's like a thief who enters 'Vine' in a crowded restaurant so that when no one is looking, he can steal out the cash register," cried Stephen Harper. Countered Paul Martin: "What family doesn't look forward to gathering together on Christmas Eve, sitting on a couch, watching the news and sharing in the joy of watching Stephen Harper appear as Scrooge on TV?"

We got tired of winning one award at a time.



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Soldiers of good fortune

After 40 days in earthquake-ravaged Pakistan, Canada's DART team is leaving behind a grateful populace

BY ANTHONY R. HARRIS There is a Kashmiri saying that every laboured step up a mountain side is an investment in the future. Sometime during the 40 days Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) spent providing emergency relief to Kashmir's earthquake victims, after a massive earthquake on Oct. 8 reduced much of the region's cities, towns and villages to rubble, some of that Kashmiri wisdom may have rubbed off. With their time spending down last week, one night's work expected the 216 DART soldiers to be looking ahead to comfort, to hot showers and a real bed, to hockey and basketball and a cold beer in front of a warm fire. Instead, engineers were in spending water projects even as their backpack to civilization was unstrapping. At first a base camp in Garhi Daponta (30 km north of Muzaffargarh, the capital of Punjab) held Kashmiri, already stripped down to little more than a patch of mud, one last mobile medical team (DART) was preparing to board a helicopter to Dhanani Kherkhel, a remote village no longer aware that had yet to see any aid

"It's the locals who've benefited," one medic told me as he rambled over to the helipad in an empty track. "They are an incredible people. It's been an honour to relieve them."

Canada's DART is coming home after what its commanding officer described as "the most challenging mission" in its nine-year history

DART treated more than 9,600 earthquake victims, an average of around 240 patients a day

"In Srinaka after the 2004 tsunami we saw a doctor," said Lt.-Col. Mike Voth. "But the severity of the injuries we were seeing in Kashmir overshadowed anything I saw in Sri Lanka. And mobility in the mountains was formidable. If you didn't have helicopters, you simply couldn't function." Fortunately, the Canadians did have a helicopter, though it had to be

contracted out from a logging company in British Columbia.

Then Russian-built Kamov 12s, a strange, dual-rotor, heavy-lift chopper designed to carry up to 4,000 kg at a time, played a crucial role not only in moving DART's MMHs to reaching remote villages, but also flying out and for NGOs and the Pakistani government. According to most members of DART, it was the team's most valuable piece of hardware. "We only had her down three times a day, and then as a test, for refuelling," said Joe Soutter. Otherwise, the Kamov was the air from heaven to connect, the 55-year-old veteran pilot from Calgary added, rarely touching ground. It would hover over the landing pad as a makeshift airfield on the outskirts of Garhi Daponta, dangling its landing gear in semi-permanent use, and slowly fly off into the mountains.

"The Kamov was a rescue," said Michael and Yusra, a 35-year-old village who walked 30 km over the mountains with his family in Garhi Daponta after his house was demolished by the earthquake. "It woke me up in the morning. It was in the air for six days. I can recognize it just by the sound it makes." For many of the survivors in and around Garhi

Daponta, the Kamov was the first sound of aid, a welcome exclamation bringing hope to a seemingly hopeless situation.

In Dhanani Kherkhel, Lt.-Col. Ambed lived, one of DART's doctors, explained why his MMH had to undertake that one last mission.

"That's why we came here," he said. "What we heard this place hadn't been touched, we had to come in. It was the only village in the area that was not badly hit by the 7.5 magnitude quake." Said Ambed had to set up the mobile clinic anyway. Within minutes, tables were laid out with medical supplies, and an acquaintance made over the mosque's loudspeaker that medical relief had arrived. One of the first patients to hobble in was an old man whose leg was a patchwork of scars and bruises from injuries sustained during the quake. One of the team's nurses cleaned and dressed the wounds while local interpreters asked about any other symptoms of illness.

In another part of the village further up the mountain, a second patient, led by Capt. Helen Wright, also arrived. "What we've been seeing for the past couple of weeks are men, chronic illnesses," she said. "Usually things you'd expect from people who've been living in tents. But really we're dealing with an incredible amount of serious trauma injuries. The situation from disaster relief in long-term care has been something for me to see and be aware of. I think that's one of the main reasons DART is leaving—we've completed our mission." In total, DART's medical team treated more than 9,600 earthquake victims, an average of around 240 a day over the 40 days of their mission. They administered an additional 2,145 doses in preparation for a winter when communicable diseases will be rampant there.

But the role of the Canadian contingent can't be fully measured by statistics alone. "We've been working in Pakistan, Canada, on things like disaster relief, and we've been able to help a lot of people," said Soutter. "We've been able to help a lot of people, and we've been able to help a lot of people."



RESPITE: To the locals who've benefited as well as one medic: They are incredible people!

death, but the humility for which Canadians are famous the world over serves them well both in another sense, where an unassuming nature can save your life, and in disaster areas, where appropriateness can very well save some one else's. "The locals appreciated the time we spent with them," said Wright. "All of the doctors that deployed with DART were family members, and they were so good. We trained the people in the villages, and we were able to help them in a way that was not just a one-time thing. The people we trained weren't accustomed to that, they were moved by it and it made our work that much more fulfilling."

It's a message echoed by those who benefited from the DART presence. "The Canadians never made a distinction between rich and poor," said Yusra. "They helped everyone equally. We're so used to corruption in Pak-

'We're so used to corruption in Pakistan, but the Canadians treat everyone with respect'

istan—in this country the rich always go to the front of the line. But the Canadians treat everyone with respect." For many of DART's soldiers, such testimonials should be reason enough to understand why the success of arriving, late and having little impact on relief efforts.

Todd Shea, a mission from New York City who volunteered regularly for Operation Heartbeat, a U.S. NGO that oversees Garhi Daponta, said that the Canadians, with the DART's arrival, received in the early days of its deployment was unimpressed. "It made me physically angry when I read about it," said Shea, who is in London, Ont., on mission for a gig when he got an article in one of Canada's national dailies, condemning DART as a waste of money. "At the time, I'd worked with DART already in Garhi Daponta, and my experience with them was exactly opposite to what the article said. I don't have enough good things to say about them. But the best case is that of how valuable they were to that everyone, from the Pakistan army to the people on the street, is sorry to see them go."

The criticism, explains Shea, who has written numerous relief operations including 30 in New York and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, into the past of DART. "They're not doing for the worst place of disaster relief," he says. "It's where NGOs like Operation Heartbeat, which are light and mobile, can come in to basically set up a Band-Aid solution. DART shows up with all the heavy equipment, and that's a little more to deploy, and has the capability to address issues more thoroughly." As an example, Shea

points out that shortly after the earthquake hit, the water supply in and around Garhi Daponta was so badly contaminated that water purification tablets "were not doing the job." It was not until DART arrived and set up reverse osmosis water purification units that the area had clean drinking water. Now, according to Dhanani Kherkhel, the water supply from DART, the reverse osmosis water is now being better than the pre-earthquake supply.

"In fact," says Michael B. Nuss, the DART's engineer who will be assuming the reins of the water project, "what Canada has provided in terms of the pump station and filtration system they've built will give this area better



THANKS: We thank God for sending the Canadians. Without them we'd have died.

water than many other clinics in Pakistan." By the end of the mission last week, DART had already provided 75.7 million litres of clean water to Garhi Daponta and the surrounding areas through the water purification units alone—a small feat. "We thank God for sending the Canadians," said Nuss, a 35-year-old Canadian who has been in Garhi Daponta since the earthquake hit in Garhi Daponta. "We would have died if they hadn't come."

DART's leaving behind a legacy that many local NGO workers say will sustain the reconstruction effort. The modern clinic on DART's base, which became the anatomy of medical relief in the area, has now been relocated to the grounds of the existing hospital, along with its medical supplies, a generator, gas heaters and 20 in-person beds. The clinic, now run by the Pakistan Red Crescent, has become a magnet for various disaster relief for relief organizations in which to house other materials, including an X-ray machine.

At the time, on the first of December, a couple of DART technicians were putting the final touches on the electrical system before heading back to their cars for one last night's rest in their assigned beds. "There you go," and one of them to a handful of helpful workers as he flipped the switch. "You now have light!"



NO MORE ITSY-BITSY

A postcard ban aims to stop sex tourism

BY HARVEY VINCENT - The girls from Ipanema are being forced to cover up—at least on postcards that show them wearing Brazil's trademark "dona florzinha" bikini. Rio de Janeiro's state legislature has passed a law prohibiting the sale of some postcards that depict scantily clad women, or more specifically, their modest bottoms on bikini bottoms that are smaller than their own legs. It may seem a bizarre move coming from a country known for its tanned beach-bum and "carioca" and "young and lovely" girls, but Rio de Janeiro's state governor, a woman, says the postcards promote the wrong image of Brazil. According to Rosanna Gusmano, an evangelist, it's

the behind, is a disservice to our country," and Alice Tamborile, the state legislator who proposed the law, "It's just us on the list of countries that encourage sex tourism. We have to put a stop to this now."

Tourism secretary Sérgio Resende Almeida agrees. In a country where the minimum wage is US\$135 per month and millions live under the poverty line, encouraging a growing concern, especially in the bars and discos of Copacabana, the Rio de Janeiro neighborhood that has seen a steady increase in prostitution in the last several years. "Postcards that exploit photos of women in skimpy wear suggest sex tourism, a practice that angers tourists as well as local residents," de Almeida said in a press statement.

Many vendors who sold the postcards at beach-side kiosks galled them a day after the law came into effect. But few complained that removing the postcards damaged business. "Most tourists still buy postcards of Sugar Loaf [mountain] or Corcovado," one vendor told the *O Globo* newspaper. And there appeared to be little offense for them. A former prostitute who regularly worked the seamy (or Copacabana seamy) bars told *Maclean's* that removing postcards will do little to end the sexual exploitation of women and children. Days after the law was enacted, police in Rio de Janeiro arrested 40 people for their role in exploiting dozens of young women and children for sex with tourists. "Without a job," said Glécio, who did sex work to be identified by her last name. "Maybe Rosinha should be more concerned about helping the women and children who are victims of the sex tourism than covering up their backs." ■

A HARD LEFT TURN AHEAD?

The coming election may usher in another socialist regime

BY DANIEL MACDONALD - In Bolivia's Dec. 18 election runoff, Evo Morales, an Aymara Indian, leads by a margin of six percentage points. In La Paz he's known simply as Evo, but many in Washington warn that he's an uncompromising ideologue—and linked to narcotics cartels to boot. Before heading the coalition MAS (Movimiento Toward Socialism), Morales, 46, was even further. To his casual cosmopolitanism, he's promised de-paradise of the plant, and to the Bolivian people, especially the marginalised indigenous majority, he's pledged "Nacionalización"—a program that, according to McGill University's Latin American specialist Philip Ochoa, is sure to put him at odds with the international community, particularly given Bolivia's vast hydrocarbon resources.

Although Morales' radical left brand of socialism is a far cry from, for example, Havana's, alarms are ringing in the Bush administration, where some fear a revolution may be in the works. Noting Morales' role in the demonstrations that led to the 2001 ouster of one former president, critics are already forecasting a trial that includes Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez. Morales hasn't worked hard to dispel the notion, even upping with the communist Venezuelan leader, a logarithm to many in Washington, at a rally against globalisation. Little wonder why when Morales first sought the presidency in 2002, his popularity spiked after the U.S. ambassador to Bolivia warned that old would be reconsidered should Morales win—a clear sign that anti-U.S. sentiment is a hot vein.

Ochoa's groups Morales among the so-called new Latin American left, which includes Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as well as Chilean and Mexican presidential hopefuls Michelle Bachelet and Andrés Manuel López Obrador, whose populist hyperbole reflects an electoral strategy that to many, Morales remains an unknown entity. A presidential candidate who should be known, Ochoa says, will come after the election—when he'll have to "bridge Bolivia's myriad divisions, and convince his opponents to look beyond the masculinity screaming from his doorway." ■



PROGRESS: Morales with Venezuela's Chavez, a socialist

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WORLD



THREE SMARTER WAYS TO SAVE THE WORLD

How not to stop AIDS

Stephen Lewis believes in drug treatment for victims, but only prevention can stop the scourge

BY TONY BLANCHARD • The document was like a Rosetta stone. Not just two people looked at the same evidence and drew opposite conclusions.

This past summer, the World Health Organization released an interim report on the "3 by 5" initiative, the world's flagship and AIDS program. The multi-billion dollar plan was meant to get three million HIV-infected people in the developing world onto antiretroviral (ARV) drug treatment by the end of 2007. In its update, the WHO announced that, while one million people were receiving treatment, the program is so far behind the schedule that the target won't be reached this year. The WHO also said that, although the world had pledged US\$17 billion over the next three years to fight AIDS, another \$1 billion was needed. Not to worry, though. Even though it missed the 2006 target, the WHO assured it remained committed to an even more ambitious and expensive long-term goal: getting into AIDS drugs everyone in need in the developing world by 2010.

For Stephen Lewis, United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, the WHO report was proof that the strategy of beating

AIDS in the developing world by concentrating on treatment is the right one. "The 3 by 5 initiative seems to me to be entirely viable," Lewis said in a speech in Nairobi, Kenya, as the WHO report was released. "Mind you, I can even now hear the cowardly bleats of the detractors, whining that we will fall short of the target. Tell that to the million people who are now on treatment and would otherwise be dead." He called for more hard work to speed the goals and predicted the 3 by 5 initiative "will one day be seen as one of the UN's finest hours."

The day after Lewis spoke, the head of our magazine was held at work in his house, second floor office in a Toronto hospital annex (he insists this is Lewis's apartment, and not just a coincidence). When Lewis stands to communicate with an almost biblical fervor, this is not spoken, cautious, scientific and clinical. As the Canada Research Chair of Health and Development at the University of Toronto, and director of the Centre for Global Health Research at St. Michael's Hospital, he has spent the last few years bleeding, literally, that the UN and the international community are getting it all wrong on AIDS. He sees the WHO

report as further proof that the overwhelming focus on ARV drug treatment, and the limited involvement in health-care infrastructure, is "well-meaning but ill-focused." "Treatment is a moral imperative," says Lewis, "but to break the back of the epidemic, we've really got a lot on our hands, and we're starting to see the problems with that." The problems, as he sees them, are a simple matter of arithmetic: the number of new infections is outpacing efforts to treat them. Last month, UNAIDS announced that 2006 established a new record for infections: five million people became HIV-positive this year, including more than three million new cases in Africa. Even if the 3 by 5 initiative had reached its target, it would still be working far behind the pace of the virus.

For Lewis, this is a warning against focusing on preventing people from getting the disease at a relatively low, low-risk, passive approach—the international community is concentrating on treating them once they get it at great cost, and with seemingly little prospect of stopping the epidemic.

Consider the example of Botswana, which has a rich "home program for AIDS and the world." The country is peaceful, relatively prosperous and well-governed, and is mounting extensive international help in ramping up its HIV drug treatment program as part of the 3 by 5 campaign. And yet, even there, the tide of new infections is rising faster than the volume of people receiving treatment. "They've got

PHOTO BY JAMES HALL/GETTY IMAGES; ILLUSTRATION BY PETER MULLER/ARTS

about 100,000 people who are HIV positive, and they're only managed to meet about 40,000 to 50,000, says Jha, and expect to get to perhaps 100,000 in five years," Jha said. "But in that time period, they will have something like 200,000 new infections." In much of the rest of the developing world, the calculus is even more dire.

"That's not to say we should throw ARVs away, but we've got to say what do we need to make this epidemic smaller and more manageable?" Jha's answer: a "massive scale up in prevention." To prevent the nightmare scenario of 100 million infected in a year, we've got to put our emphasis on stopping new infections. That's Public Health 101."

Jha's career has been all public health 101. Based as Winnipeg, he's got a medical degree from the University of Manitoba and a doctorate in epidemiology and public health from Oxford. He's worked for both the World Bank, an HIV and malaria control program, and the WHO, the organization whose AIDS strategy he now criticizes. He is currently heading up the world's largest health study, surveying the lifestyles of 1.1 million Indians. "It's all focused on increasing the life expectancy," says Jha, "so as to understand how they die. And from that, you can get appropriate public health strategies."

Use of condoms in brothels has slashed Thailand's HIV infection rate



It's this background that has led Jha to argue that the way to making the AIDS epidemic less menacing is preventing people from getting the infection in the first place. The key? Condoms. "The most compelling evidence is, there is no major heterosexual epidemic in places where you've got protected sex work." That, says Jha, is because, "HIV is actually very hard to transmit. It's got perhaps a one in 1,000 chance of transmitting per sex." As a result, "if epidemic goes, it's only because there are groups that are at such high risk because they have a lot of other infections or they have rapid change in partners."

"This approach's looking success story? Thailand, where the HIV infection rate has plummeted. In 1991, Thailand had 55,000 new HIV cases. By 2003, it had just 21,000 new cases, according to WHO and UNAIDS. They had the very simple strategy: Intervene, educate, and make 100 per cent condoms use in brothels," says Jha. "They learned what could have been a very rapid epidemic avoided."

Contention on the sex industry does not mean banning prostitution. It doesn't mean punishing abstinence, or suppressing the sex industry either. It means getting them to understand how HIV transmits, and why they must use condoms. That means giving a certain level of recognition to sex work, by directing funds and attention to educating sex workers—can always an easy sell for donors. "That's for political reasons, official agencies have been talking about policies, sex work, etc.," says Jha. "The health administration is not doing it."

A big infrastructure is not required, Jha says. "You need retired sex workers to reach their clients. They have networks, they are able to relate to their own, and educate them about

condoms, make sure they're available, make sure they have good access to general health services." "Where it has been tried, the model has been 'consistently effective,'" in Cambodia, parts of Africa, and some regions of India. Jha calls it, and some regions of India, Jha calls it, "a disaster prevention" unless it takes the right HIV prevention measures.

Jha cites Toronto's red-light district as an example of how a city can have widespread prostitution and yet not have an AIDS epidemic. The sex industry "changed into what it became a condom-provided market. You simply cannot procure unprotected sex on the streets in Toronto or Amsterdam. In developing countries you still can." Over again, it's Public Health 101. "What countries have managed that—in Cambodia, in Thailand—and they've had intervention programs," he says, "the epidemic has been stopped in its tracks."

Instead of 1 by 5, Jha is pushing what he calls "1 by 10": preventing eight million new infections by 2010. That would cut the global infection rate in half, leaving fewer people in need of HIV drugs, and making it possible for treatment to catch up to the number of patients.

So why aren't Jha's ideas gaining more traction? There's "no disagreement in principle on the benefits of prevention," UNAIDS 2004 "Report on the Global AIDS Epidemics" notes that "comprehensive prevention could avert 70 million of the 45 million new infections projected to occur this decade. Without sharply reducing the number of new HIV infections, expanded access to treatment is doomed unsustainable. Provision of universal treatment will be swamped by demand."

Lewis and others running the world's anti-AIDS effort are advocates unswayed in reducing



'If we don't deliver soon on AIDS, how will we win back public support?'

ing the number of new cases of the disease, but their overwhelming bias continues to favor a concentrating most of the money and effort on treatment—and arguing that the more ARV drugs are available, the more people will enroll in testing and prevention.

The theory goes something like this: unless people know that treatment is available for AIDS, they will refuse to be tested, or involve themselves in AIDS prevention programs. The WHO says most treatment successively slowing disease progression. As Dr. Jim Yong Kim, the WHO's head of HIV/AIDS, more recently in the Washington Post, "the best treatment becomes available in the developing world, governments had little reason to invest in HIV testing, and individuals had no reason to know their status." Today, however, access to treatment is driving new interest in HIV prevention and testing among governments and individuals.

That's Lewis's line as well. It "becomes a rationality clear that treatment has been shown to prevent," says Lewis in Nairobi. "I can meet all the campaigning about the neglect of prevention is the world began to focus on treatment, but the detractors were wrong again." Lewis cited statistics from the WHO report, showing that in one village in Uganda, after ARV drugs were introduced, there was a 27-fold increase in condom usage—something he said the WHO says in the first step to both treatment and prevention. UNAIDS 2005 report on the epidemic notes that "evidence and experience show that rapidly increasing the availability of antiretroviral therapy leads to greater uptake of HIV testing."

Jha responds: "I would gently say that's a little bit of a stretch." He says the statistics show a very different story than the one painted by Lewis's one-village anecdote: wider availability of treatment, from the US to Uganda, has

not spared greater testing, more widespread prevention measures, or a reduction in the spread of disease. In Harare, Jha says, "treatment can make people engage in risk behavior" because they begin to believe that even if they contract HIV, it can be cured. And there's no disputing that the number of HIV infections continues to rise, even as treatment is increasing up.

"I've a huge admiration for, and believe of the most prominent, articulate people," Jha says of Lewis. "Where we would disagree is he thinks that ARV can go to mobilize all of these other efforts. We've seen enough actual experience where that hasn't happened."

UNAIDS says that the cost of its anti-HIV strategy in the developing world will now be US\$2.1 billion a year by 2008. To put that in perspective, that's more than British Prime Minister Tony Blair managed to deliver, sometime after the crisis of the war in Africa in 2002, increasing it by \$15 billion. That will be supposed to support a host of health, education and infrastructure projects across the continent—and the HIV treatment strategy could, by itself, eat up almost all of that new aid money.

Again, the Researcher said Stephen Lewis and Prabhu Jha both see this as a potential turning point in the history of the epidemic, while disagreeing sharply on the direction of that turn. For Lewis, the call is for greater generosity, not a change in strategy. "The idea of ducking and for Africa by 2005, which would represent almost 32 million people, is already going to, some might say, paley," he said in his Nairobi speech. For Jha, the speed in which the cost of treating the epidemic is rising—even the G8's massive new foreign aid promises is a warning that we're on the wrong path, and a call to change course, before disaster befalls us all.

"We've got a historic opportunity where all risk takers and politicians need to start having this common agenda," says Jha. "And if we don't deliver on AIDS, how are we going to get the public support back? We'll say, sorry, we blew it—we were not true to our word. We said we would do this, and we didn't. We would ask everyone to give us their trust back. That's the risk that we shouldn't underestimate." ■



HEAT WAVE: (top) waiting to spread out aid dollars too thin

HEALTH CARE IN CANADA

THE PILLS MEANT TO BATTLE EPIDEMICS NEVER REALLY ARRIVED

BY COLIN CAMPBELL — Two years ago, when Canada drafted legislation to allow the export of cheap copies of some patented AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis drugs to poorer countries, it was hailed as a noble step forward in the battle against global epidemics. But in the six months since the law has been in force, rather than saving a flood of exports to the millions in need of inexpensive drugs, Canada has yet to ship a single pill.

The result is the sort of worst-case scenario AIDS groups feared when the bill was first tabled in November 2001. From the beginning, generic drug-makers opposed the legislation, claiming that the law, which they say is filled with unworkable barriers to exporting brand name medicines that make it too risky and costly for them to double in patented drugs. "The law makes the process too onerous, lengthy, difficult, convoluted and expensive," says Jeff Connolly, a spokesman for the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association.

Medical aid groups hold out hope that the plan will see Canadian generics being given to patients—maybe by next spring, they say—despite the complications. "It's bloody slow—but we don't want to throw it out completely," says Carol Devine, a program director for Doctors Without Borders, which is currently working with a generic drug company to place what would be the first order under the law. If successful, that shipment would be an important step toward getting things moving, says Richard Elliott, a director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. "There are concerns that remain, but it's not clear how they'll be home out until we try and use the legislation."

Most pharmaceutical associations would be so if the government would take a more active role in promoting a plan that was unanimously approved by Parliament. The government itself did its part in pushing forward the legislation, and says it has now been in the hands of the private sector and NGOs. "It's really up to those who have sub-sequent for the legal framework to make it work," said an Industry Canada official. ■

MAINTAIN 10,000 TURTLEDOVES

In a country where rabbit is the traditional dish, hunting is a national pastime. But the EU bans hunting in the spring—when Mallards like to take aim at quail and turtle doves. Malta says it's been allowed an exception, but the EU wants to see that it's not May 2004, only 2,320 quail and 10,115 doves were shot in a country with 10,000 reported hunters. And one spokesman: "If only 10,000 birds are being shot, the Mallards must be really bad shooters."



THE ISSUE IN... (top) waiting to spread out aid dollars too thin



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BUSINESS

A LORD'S COVENANT

He calls it routine. They call it illegal. But just what is a non-compete clause?

BY KATHERINE MACLEOD • In the fall of 2005, as part of the back-and-forth dealing to sell some community newspapers, a Hollinger-owned subsidiary named Black Kipps told its buyers he wanted a change in the purchase agreement. The price had already been set at US\$90 million; the time he wanted to open was how much of that would go toward keeping the publishing company from competing against the new owners, and who would receive it.

Initially, the parties agreed that US\$3 million would be allocated to what's called the non-

competition covenant. It is this non-compete covenant, along with similar agreements in scores of other deals, that is at the heart of the criminal charges Black is facing.

The case is complex, of course. While the covenants are at issue, the defense and prosecution will want to cast them in entirely different lights. The prosecution will attempt to show that Black and his co-defendants used the non-compete fraudulently, meanwhile, Black will want to have them seen as standard business practice. Which they are: non-compete covenants are widely used in two areas—employment contracts and purchase agreements.

The rationale is logical. The buyer of a business doesn't want the vendor to set up shop next door.

It is common, particularly for high-value acquisitions, to agree not to compete against a former employer when they leave an organization. This fall, Niemi was forced to pay a US\$11.5 million settlement on behalf of its new CEO, Mike Zaitzowski, after he was sued by his former employer, Motorola Inc., for going to work for the competitor. In our agreement covering the purchase of assets, like the Hollinger transactions, non-compete almost always forms part of a negotiated deal. The rationale is logical: a buyer of a business doesn't want the vendor to set up shop next door. The covenant doesn't add to the purchase price; it simply designates a portion of it for the vendor staying out of the market. For the vendor, the non-compete money is compensation for not being in business. Usually an agreement will set terms on the time frame and geographic area covered.

The indictment, which accuses Black, the three deputies and the Toronto-based holding

PUNITED BLACK he's accused of conspiring millions using non-compete covenants.



company that he controls, Hamilton Corp. Ltd., upon

out charges related to a series of transactions where Hollinger sold newspapers in North America, including the deal in 2000 to sell off its Canadian papers and half of the National Post for \$1.1 billion to the Agar family-controlled CanWest Global Communications Corp. But that deal alone, the U.S. Department of Justice alleges that the outside media mogul and his co-defendants fraudulently diverted US\$1.5 million, plus in interest, from Hollinger International using a non-compete provision. It accuses them of siphoning more than US\$80 million in total out of Hollinger International coffers. "The indictment charges," said Patrick Fitzgerald, the U.S. attorney leading the prosecution team, "that the insiders at Hollinger—all the way to the top of the corporate ladder—where job was to safeguard these shareholders, made it their job to steal and conceal."

From 1999 to 2001, Hollinger International pursued a strategy to sell most of its U.S. minority newspapers. In addition to the CanWest transaction, it made six sales, totaling in value from US\$16 million to US\$475 million. As the deals progressed, five indictment charges, the Hollinger International co-accused committed an increasingly sophisticated scheme to allocate money to themselves. In the first deal, they diverted all of the non-competition payment from International to Hollinger Inc. Then, according to the indictment, they created a company that allocated 25 per cent of International's non-compete money to Hollinger Inc. The reason for doing so was because the controlling shareholders of the parent firm were Black and (initially), he owned a clear disproportionate part of the company as a result of a deal signed and agreed to help U.S. authorities. As the controlling shareholders of Hollinger Inc., they owned more of its wealth than they did of Hollinger International, where they had a minority ownership. The result of International's ownership structure was that every \$100 transferred from International to parent company would effectively cost Black and Hollinger \$70, but give them \$60 as Hollinger Inc.'s controlling shareholders, "illegally" taking their funds in the direct or indirect of International's non-controlling shareholders," the indictment says. In later deals, such as the second CNHI transaction, the defendants channeled cash that was added to the list of U.S. non-competition payments. For their involvement, the indictment continues, was because non-compete payments were tax free in Canada during this time, the defendants used them to avoid Canadian taxes.

In the United States, non-competition payments are almost always inevitable, say U.S. corporate lawyers, because the threat of suits for a buyer



ONE-SIDE ORNERY: Soble pleaded guilty to a fraud charge, agreeing to help the authorities

would think drastically if the vendor went bankrupt business. And because corporations are entities and it is the individuals who do the competing, if any revenue that non-competition agreement also means executives of the business that is selling the assets. Part of what a buyer of a business is buying, explains Robert Schwesmer, a partner practicing in Chicago with Gomburg-Tromb LLP, a law and consulting firm with offices across the U.S. and Europe, is protection from business officials of the seller, whether they be key employees

only this common practice in the U.S. means senior people in a non-competition covenant, but that it is the individuals who built a company who are the threat to a new owner.

As much as Black will want to keep the agreement even located on whether it was appropriate for him and his colleagues to receive non-compete payments—and he will argue that it was—the prosecution in the case is likely to push the document as a different device. He's expected to argue that the covenant did not reflect actual business reality and was used fraudulently in one transaction, a US\$45.7-million deal struck in the spring of 1999 to sell papers to Hainan Publications Inc., some of the Hollinger executives who had signed non-compete were also owners of the company that bought the papers.

"In the Hainan transaction," the indictment says, "Hollinger's agents, including Black, [initially] took their own money, but, in essence, negotiated an agreement with themselves to not to compete against themselves (Inc.), resulting in them paying themselves (Inc.) approximately \$1.1 million." In other transactions, including the CNHI deal, the executives did not disclose the charges in the purchase agreement to International's audit committee, according to the indictment. The claim calls the US\$5.5 million paid to the four officials "bonus-compensation" that was characterized as non-compete payments between the parties of benefiting their jobs duties—had no business purpose when the parties finally got to court, which observes say might not be before 2002, the battle will be fierce. ■

EMPLOYEE
of the
WEEK

CNN OPERATOR EARNS LIPS OF FREE SPEECH
When CNN recently broadcast a speech by Dick Cheney with an X accidentally superimposed over the U.S. vice-president's face, complaints poured into the network. A backstage phone operator hastily responded, telling one caller that the X was an expression of "free speech," and "if you don't like Dick Cheney's words, tell your president to stop lying!" It may have seemed a clever reminder at the time, but the call was repeated and the operator was fired.



CREAM SCHARF: A study asked to cut his erection on a five-point scale gave him a 10

Too sexy for your nose

A new nasal spray makes people hot to trot

BY NARA INDIENKOW • If there's anything people have struggled to find more than the fountain of youth, it's a quick cure for when sexually sick as And, apparently, there's a great deal. An estimated 193 million men around the world suffer from erectile dysfunction. And women aren't facing so wifery, they findle post the number of those affected by female sexual dysfunction—a quack bag term for everything from lack of libido to inability to achieve orgasm—to about 60 per cent. Top all that off with the perils of bad health that inevitably affect even the most femininely strong men from time to time, thanks to stress or unmet old-fashioned issues or boredom, and, well, it's not a pretty picture. But the world ahead, as long as a few doctors prescribe women will be up for a little action on a regular basis—and their partners won't have to do a thing.

Sound like a dream come true? Of the results of early trials of a little nasal spray here and there, well, it's not a pretty picture. It may well be merely for fun of people with sexual problems. PT-141 is one of a new class of drugs used to treat erectile dysfunction. Like the medications such as Viagra and Levitra, which increase blood flow to the sexual organs, PT-141 bypasses the vascular system and

affects the central nervous system, stimulating the sexual center of the brain. In early studies on rats—none of which were conducted at Concordia University in Montreal—PT-141 was a quick and remarkable impact on both sexes. In fact, within minutes of taking PT-141, female rats were actually mounting the males. Not subtle, exactly, but effective. Non-rat studies involved in later trials have reported similar results within half an hour of administering the spray, even claimed to raise it to 40. "On a five-point scale," stated Forest et al., "I'd rate the erection level as a 10."

PT-141 provides only a short-term response from sexual tests, but actually people may be able to use it for as many years, and as often, as they wish. So far, few side effects reported have been mild nausea, headache, post nasal drip, congestion, facial flushing and

otherwise. Typically, according to Carl Span, CEO and president of New Jersey-based Palatin Technologies, which is developing PT-141, one spray will work for about 10 hours. Anesthetically, he adds, ones seem able to perform more than once during this time; the key's still out on whether women will be up for it as much.

Currently, 79 American women are taking part in a trial of the drug, scheduled to wrap in about three months. By the second quarter of 2006, phase 3 should be under way. If all goes well, Span says, approval of the drug from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could come early in 2008, approval in Canada shouldn't be too far behind.

Through the target group for PT-141 is the huge number of men and women suffering from sexual problems, there's little doubt the drug will be in high demand on a much broader scale. "Just as with Viagra, it's going to be the party drug of choice," says psychiatrist Fred Ales, who is also a professor of sexual diversity studies at the University of Toronto. "Clearly we don't advocate the overuse of any of the drugs," says Span, but, he adds, "With sexual people have a choice!" I think so. Would it help a healthy young male have an erection for a longer period of time? Yes.

Also-Ran also caution that some libido problems can be the result of unmet sexual issues. "Sex happens between people, and if the only focus is on the physiology, then that interpersonal aspect, which is crucial, is not addressed," he says. "Being satisfied with one's partner, with one's self, and his life,

In early studies, female rats were actually mounting male rats

stress, anxiety, depression—there are many sources of stressors that could affect the libido."

So should they—can they—simply be sniffed away? Span says PT-141 is absolutely not a panacea for those whose lack of desire stems from an unhappy relationship (though it might provide a little extra stimulation). "Because I want to have sex with my partner," sexual is Tim having a hard time getting going," he adds. "We're more on five-pointing part."

WAY
OUT
THERE

TAKE THAT, YOU LITTLE PRIST

A British security consultant has developed an audio warning beeping gadget that signals before intruders from store owners. Steve Shepherdson's "Mossquito" relies on the fact that store owners can hear high-frequency sounds inaudible to most adults over 30. It emits a high-pitched beeping that sends kids running with their hands over their ears. After a successful trial run in a store in South Wales, more than 100 shops and city councils ordered the gizmo.



HEALTH

The end of menstruation

A new contraceptive will soon let women stop having periods. Is it the pinnacle of liberation, or a reckless experiment?

BY LAMAR GORDON For the average woman, life holds no fewer but three contraceptive dead ends and 12 years of monthly hormonal mayhem. Periods can be wretched. But from a young age, girls are comforted with the promise that the bleeding, cramping and radical mood swings are all part of the special side my of womanhood. Menstruation is—to use the mother of all feminine hygiene catchphrases—a precious gift. Which is why the introduction of a new product that invites women to opt out of the whole ordeal is something of a cultural upheaval. Health experts are predicting that by this time next year, menstruation will no longer be an inevitable function but rather an optional feature, a lot like power steering or pay-per-view.

In 2006, a new and controversial pill called *Amya*, developed by "piv women" in control of whom or if they want to menstruate," is expected to hit the Canadian and U.S. markets. Manufactured by Gallegosville, French-

all the inhouse symptoms of PMS.

The first time of period—politically called menstrual suppression—is an objective the pharmaceutical industry has been chasing for several years. In the fall of 2001, Barry Labovitz of Princeton, N.J., introduced Seasonale in the U.S., the first extended-cycle contraceptive pill, with the slogan "Fewer periods. More possibilities." Unlike traditional oral contraceptives, which a woman takes for 21 days, followed by seven days of placebo pills, Seasonale is taken for 84 consecutive days, followed by seven days of placebo, which gives her four periods a year instead of the usual 12. Despite widely reported side effects, including irregular bleeding, Seasonale—still pending approval in Canada—has quickly emerged as a popular option in the U.S. Last year alone, Barry recorded Seasonale sales of \$189 million. Amya takes this contraceptive notion to the next level.

So, for any woman who ever found herself staring down a Tampax vending machine without a quarter, the advent of a drug like *Amya* would seem an occasion for rejoicing. It will mean all sorts of choices for the next generation of adolescent girls. It will mean being able to synchronize their cycles to suit their lives. (Maybe she's an athlete who doesn't want to bleed during sweat meets. Or maybe she just likes to wear white cotton capris.) It will mean no more tampons, panty liners or maxi pads with wings. No more fiddling or hot water bottles. No more faking not quite fresh—even after a shower.

And yet, in theory anyway, the whole idea of menstrual suppression is outrageous. Isn't the whole point of "the curse" (not it's not optional! Isn't it natural for women to menstruate?) On these questions, the expert—doctors, feminists, bioethicists and women themselves—are bitterly divided. On the one hand, advocates say it's all about providing women with choices and giving them control. We've already been manipulating Mother Nature for decades, so why stop now? But



detractors say menstrual suppression is a reckless and profit-driven enterprise—or, as one women's health expert calls it, "the largest uncontrolled experiment in the history of medical science, hands down." Reckless or not, the need to bleed is poised to become the next issue in the ongoing battle over women's bodies.

Dr. Shari Reuter, a 40-year-old Mississauga gynecologist, says she, for one, just doesn't have time to menstruate. Reuter has been suppressing her period for a decade with the continuous use of birth control pills. "Whatever temples I've got in my cabinet at my office" (While many women have used this off-label method to take a single period that is fit-formed to a vacation or honeymoon, it is generally prescribed only by women with severe menstrual difficulties, under doctor supervision.) "I have an incredibly busy day," she says. And the reality is, I just don't have time to go to the bathroom every two or three hours to change a tampon or a sanitary napkin." Reuter adds that she believes her use of birth control pills "to be safe. I know it is effective, and it saves time, energy and in the long run, some money just in dry cleaning bills alone."

Reuter and other advocates of suppressing menstruation point out that among the present failures in modern public medicine is the notion that women on oral contraceptives—roughly 1.5 billion in Canada—

IMAGES COURTESY OF AMRYA FOR EXCLUSIVE ON MENSTRUATION

MAGNETIC 000 12 000

43

expect a period every month. In fact, what they experience is "a false period," what doctors call a withdrawal bleed.

"Women on birth control bleed as if they were menstruating because they're having a withdrawal bleed, just because when they take their placebo pills, their bodies are withdrawing from the progestin cycle in the active tablets," says Dr. Leslie Miller, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Washington, who runs the pro-aggression website *NaturalCycles*. In other words, she says, there's nothing natural about it.

In fact, the reason women on oral contraceptives bleed at all is because of one man,

perhaps the action of a natural cycle.) But Miller argues that since the bleeding serves an agonist (or purpose)—except a psychological one—why not get rid of it along with it?

In 1979, a Brazilian gynecologist named Dr. Elviseu Costa da Costa published the women's health community with the publication of *Is Menstruation Obsolete? How Suppressing Menstruation Can Help Women With Suffer From Anemia, Endometriosis, or PMS*. In the book, Costa da Costa argues that the contemporary woman has many more periods than nature likely intended. A hundred years ago, he points out, the average age of onset was roughly 16. Now, a girl's first period often comes as early as 10 or 11. (Doctors recognize this phenomenon runs the gamut from higher childhood obesity rates to increased exposure to the chemicals in the environment.) Also, women are waiting longer to get pregnant and having fewer pregnancies. Which means that whereas a 19th-century woman may have had fewer than 10 menstrual cycles in her lifetime, the modern woman often has more than 200.

To have so many periods, he says, isn't only a nuisance, but may be an unnecessary burden on the women's emotional and physical health. Menstruation, he says, can exacerbate anemia, migraines, endometriosis and polycystic cysts. Also, the frequent use of tampons puts women at risk for toxic shock or vaginal irritation. (Costa da Costa, in 1989, also helped develop Depo-Provera, a controversial injectable contraceptive that suppresses a woman's period for three months at a time and is believed to cause serious complications in some women, including significant loss of bone density.)

Miller, meanwhile, contends that there are potential health benefits to skipping the pill

continuously, particularly for those who choose not to have children. "We know that the pill can reduce risks of stroke and even-on cancer, endometrial, ovarian fibroids," she says. Then there are the savings the women can realize by going producers, which collectively cost billions of dollars a year. (In Canada, both the NDP and Conservative parties are opposed with the idea of scrapping the GST on feminine hygiene products to ease female taxes.) "There's no downside in terms of health risks to skipping your period," claims Dr. Jukka Johanson, an endocrine and reproductive endocrinologist at the University of Vermont and one of Canada's primary researchers. "The only downside is that up to 50 percent of women still experience some bleeding or spotting in the first six months of discontinuance."

The upside, however, is potentially a great one, says Miller: "It means the freedom to go on vacation anytime," she says. "You can wear a skirt with no underwear. You can have sex without thinking about bleed on the sheets. You never get anything stained. Every day your hormones are the same. Your breasts aren't tender, you don't feel on any gyno. It's a modern problem to have 13 periods a year for 35 years. I think the continuous pill is a modern solution to a modern problem."

But all of that good news, detractors say, is based on the assumption that periods serve no function other than as production—and that you can reduce them from every other quarter to the body. Thus, they argue, progestins. "Menstruation, this amazing, mysterious, carefully crafted cycle, is a vital sign of our health," says Dr. Jennifer Pines, an endocrinologist and the scientific director of the Center for Menstrual Cycle and Ovulation Research at the University of British

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HEALTH Columbia. "It was totally disruptive to a non-reflexive thought. Regu-

latory bodies are saying, 'We approved the original pill, so this must be okay.' It's just taking the pill more frequently." But even the original pill probably contains negatives we still don't really know about. "The continuous-use pill, she says, is just a way for pharmaceutical companies to avoid fingering products—to find their ways to market them by giving them a 'new face and a new name.'"

In 1991, Margie Pacific, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Washington, published a groundbreaking thesis asserting that, aside from an obvious *faucitism*, men's frustration serves to protect women against STDs and infertility by flushing out the reproductive system, ridding it of pathogens, bacteria and other sperm-borne toxins. Also, says Dr. James Roca, a Boston-based psychiatrist and women's reproductive health expert whose 2003 book *Not My Perv* denounced heterosexual aggression, a woman's blood pressure is raised for two weeks of every month during a normal menstrual cycle. "There's a normal physiologic response that is to expect a woman's blood pressure to rise in response to an ovulatory hormone surge that is in itself an ovulatory-dependent indication every month for two weeks. Women on the limit control will not have this response."

Even the "false period" of those on the birth control pill serves a purpose by mimicking the body's natural cycle, says Kahn. Menstrual bleeding is the only way a woman's body clears itself of excess stored iron, which is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and strokes, she says. "I believe that women have regular bleeding is one of the factors that likely contributes to their having lower incidence of heart attack and strokes than do men before women are menopausal." Prior advice that the break from the high hormone levels of the normal menstrual cycle is likely important for the breasts and bones, particularly among adolescents and younger women who are at a critical time



'This intricate, carefully crafted cycle is a vital sign of our health'

in their development. (Even Leslie Miller is reluctant to support menstrual suppression for young people. "I'll get emails to my in-laws from a mother who's got a 12-year-old, and she'll say, 'Oh, I want to take away all of his periods, because she wants to be wearing his bikini down in Tahiti, or because menstruation is messy.' And I'll say, 'You know what she probably needs a few periods.' Most cases are never done on women under 18.")

Considerable Mitoa, a holistic reproductive health practitioner in Baltimore, notes that the reason there is no connection between birth control use and fertility rates is their falling leg perpetuated by the pharmaceutical industry. "My clinical experience has been that a connection," says Mitoa, "is what has been charting the cycles of women with fertility problems for 30 years. A 2002 article published in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* found that it often took less than one month, and sometimes longer, for women to regulate their fertility after the cessation of oral contraceptives. "When coming off of birth control pill," says Mitoa, "there are off-putting things estimate: proper ovulation, bleeding, the presence of ovulation, the presence of cervical mucus necessary for sperm survival." With something like continuous use, it's even more deleterious."

Among interactions of menopause and depression, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for women in the years before menopause upheld as the cautionary rate: "We were to alter a very long time that there was no problem with HRT, that it would benefit our health and there were many problems," says Helen G. Goss of the Canadian Women's Health Network. "But when the science finally came out, we found there were serious health risks associated with HRT [including heart problems and breast cancer]. We can't make prescriptions first and wait for the science that eventually when we're talking about men-

healthy women to continuous hormones purely for lifestyle purposes." Also, adds Frost, the notion that these pills are low-dose should be in quotations. "It's low dose compared to the kind of pills that were marketed in the '60s and '70s," she says, "but it's not low dose compared to the natural estrogen level. We've been sold that, and we accept it though it's wrong. We've lost our perspective."

The argument for creation of periods is couched in feminine notions of choice and control, says Peat. But you can't rely on either when you don't have all of the information, the regulatory bodies aren't demanding it, and the pharmaceutical industry wants to make billions by pushing the drug through. "From a cultural perspective, I think it's misogynistic," says Mann. "Women's bodies are a controversial topic to commodify. We have all sorts of processes that can be turned into diseases and disease models: pregnancy, nursing, menopause, menopause—all of these things. And because we can't treat the health care system more than once, we're a real market place."

Wildlife rambles on, perhaps the greatest champion of mammal preservation is, oddly enough, a 63-year-old bachelor and retired employee of the US Department of Defense named Harry Finley. For four years, Finley ran the Museum of Mammation—or MUM for short, a play on “man’s world”—out of his home in New Carrollton, Md., attracting over 1,500 visitors, mostly on weekends and by appointment. Ultimately, however, he found it too tiring to have to continually explain to people why the collection is housed in his windowed basement. “Where I am, a single male going to my basement,” he says, “is like a woman going to her bathroom. It’s just a common-sense thing.” For now he hosts the museum online while he searches for a permanent public venue.

As an artist and graphic designer by trade, Ferley originally became interested in illustration as a sideline of advertisements and other rare and interesting paraphernalia. The "semi-tubed" nature of the subject appealed to him. Now he has one of the most comprehensive private collections in the world, featuring 4,000 to 5,000 items. Include a few



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hundreds are treated. More than 1,000 women graduate from the program.

by Sears, decorated with "bright, gay colors" and featuring a "tissue-ure-resistantrotch which is rubber-lined." There are also women by contemporary artists, including one who uses her own menstrual blood as a medium. Her personal favorite is a reproduction of an early 20th-century sanitary apron he commissioned from a local artist. "Menstruation is just another thing women were in order not to have reconstruction leading through their clothing," he says. "I'm always amazed by how much more women are—and I would like to see a generation raised—'conditioned' by menstruation. Men have nothing comparable so this is it all."

A couple of years ago, Finley posted a question on his website that he deemed a very interesting hypothetical: "Would you stop menstruating if you could?" To his surprise, it sparked an impassioned debate. Answers poured in—some came to post in from all over the world. "No, when your body starts into an frenzy every month, you don't want to celebrate it, you want to achieve a creative and negative release of emotions," he says. "No, but I do believe a woman should have a choice, without judgment." Personally, he'd keep it. I don't trust doctors and medication enough to give up something that is a mild inconvenience which makes me feel human and womanly. "No, it gives me power that men don't have and cannot take over me." "I am a trippier person and I dread the monthly doom." "Being a woman is not a disease." And so on.

The results of Finley's crude survey reflect the deep angst in this issue women feel about their periods. In a recent U.S. survey by the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, 79 per cent of respondents said they believe men have a real advantage by not having the monthly disruption. Sixty-seven per cent wouldn't miss it if it disappeared. Sixty-nine per cent said they'd try using a birth control method that stopped it altogether if they could be sure it wouldn't harm them.

Women's conflicted feelings about menstruation, while rooted primarily in an attitude of pain, discomfort and inconvenience, are also stirred by concerns, if not inflexible, of superstition theories that link menstruation with the propensity of women to be morally, physically and intellectually weaker. There is a long-standing belief that, for

Tamponphobia:

Why don't Swedish women have it?



Why don't Swedish women have the dreaded tampon? The answer lies in the fact that they are not used to them. In Sweden, the use of tampons is still considered a taboo.

In Sweden, the use of tampons is still considered a taboo. The reason for this is that the Swedish women are not used to them. In Sweden, the use of tampons is still considered a taboo.

And even though the use of tampons is still considered a taboo in Sweden, the use of tampons is still considered a taboo in Sweden.

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'It's misogynistic. Women's bodies are a marvellous thing to commodify.'

at least one week out of every month, women are practically zoned, and until far beyond requiring logic or rationality. In effect, the British Medical Journal published an essay about the personal hazards of allowing women to practice medicine, since menstruating women talked crazy when they reached it. In France as recently as 100 years ago, menstruating women were not permitted to enter sugar factories for fear they would spoil the boiling sugar. Scientific studies designed to combat suffrage met in the 1930s "proved" that women were too unstable to participate in the vote process because of their cycles. Hence a few things, menstruation has been deemed the root cause of familial tyranny, marital protest, "neurosis," weight gain, bad morning, murder and indignation.

There is another, more hazardous aspect to the whole discussion. Among women, menstruation has always been the great leveler. There is a strange unbreached target by swapping stories of gym class horrors, looking at the most mortifying moments, and reading day-care copies of Judy Blume's *Love You Three Guys* in life. Margery in the back of the school library and sneaking at the word "menstruation" (That book—a 1967 volume about a group of preteen girls coming to terms with adolescence—remains among the top-selling children's titles of all time.) It is a uniquely female experience so it is

in sixth class while the teacher explains why tampons work. Can feel, take on everything, and to watch in horror and fascination as the same teacher drops said tampon into a dust jar of water, causing it to expand like some sort of wiggly sea creature. "The menstrual cycle is really the one thing that all women have in common," says Joan Cleland, a social psychologist at Connecticut College in New London, Conn., who specializes in women's relationships with their bodies, "and I'd feel very sad if we took this away. We'd no longer have this connection to nature and to each other any more."

The onset of menstruation, called menses, the premenstrual syndrome tends to be a formative memory, where the Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer Nadine Stangor's book, *Women: An Intimate Geography*, one that is "scared into the brain with the blowtorch of high emotions." "It's very, terribly sad," says Kohn, "the idea that teenage girls would grow up in a world where the idea of menstruation is considered undesirable and a nuisance. In fact, there's a certain kind of rhythm that goes with your monthly cycle, where sometimes in the month you feel more energetic, sometimes more creative, sometimes more social, sometimes more vulnerable. That's all part of being female."

Which is why for many the question "Is menstruation obsolete?" is a bit like asking whether being a woman is obsolete. "It's ridiculous," says Kohn. "I could make the same argument about men and capitalism. I could say, 'We no longer need to ejaculate. It's messy, it's messy a loss of essential nutrients, it's embarrassing when you have a wet dress and your mother sees it. So take a pill to suppress it.' But that would change everything about how he works. And they'd probably burn us at the stake if we suggested it. But that's how ridiculous this is."



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CHRISTOPHER CLARKSON: ON THE RUN FOR 30 YEARS

CATCHING MR. CLARKSON

The odd criminal saga of a scion of the Canadian establishment, and his mysterious girlfriend

BY NICHOLAS HOULEN • As federal agent Tim Depenbrock approached San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge on his way to work one morning in October, he heard a man's voice crackling over the news radio station on his car radio. It was some guy named Clarkson—Stephen Clarkson, a Canadian political advice-puff discussing the Iraq war. “Clarkson,” thought Depenbrock. “Hansen. Must be a common name in Canada.”

The previous day, an investigation led by Depenbrock's team with the U.S. Department of Security Service, a branch of the State Department that deals with passport fraud, had led them across in Florida of a Canadian fugitive named Christopher John Clarkson, 51, a man linked to the notorious bank robbery known as the Freeway Gang. On trial for conspiracy to transport cocaine in 1995, that Clarkson had jumped bail and fled Ottawa, winding up in the U.S. under a new identity. By the

time of his arrest 30 years later, friends and neighbours in Weston, Fla.—an affluent suburb nestled between Miami and Fort Lauderdale—knew him as a successful commercial real estate agent Stephen “White Dolly” H's second wife, Joanne Carson, a psychologist, was shocked when agents arrested him at work. “His mother did come and visit him—and she was from Canada,” the woman told authorities, trying to make sense of it.

Little did Depenbrock know that Stephen Clarkson, the man on the radio that morning, was indeed the rapacious bank-lin—baron, in fact. In Christopher Clarkson, the U.S. agents had stumbled across a scion of one of Canada's most government establishment families, a bright, well-educated man who was, for a time, swept up by marriage to Adrienne Clarkson, the former governor general. Nor did Depenbrock know the full story: of a love affair that, three decades earlier, had led two

young people from Ottawa—a would-be gangster with literary aspirations and a beautiful, dark-haired French Canadian—to disappear first to South America, then the Mexican underground, where they lived hidden behind the names of two dead children.

Clarkson, 28 years old when his trial began, seemed an unlikely crime importer. A journalism-school graduate and the son of a decorated military man, he grew up on buses around the world before settling into an upper-middle-class Ottawa existence. “Chris gave the impression of somebody well-bred, well educated, a man about town—a young man on his way up,” said a defence lawyer who worked his drug trial. “He thought he was a smart little boy,” recalled Peter Gutsa, a retired OPP officer. “Very self-confident and a little cocky.” And why not? The Clarkson family, with its business tycoon and politician, helped establish the Clarkson Gordon accounting firm long since subsumed into Ernst & Young), a branch of the Canadian elite. Now was his father, Col. John Clarkson, a legendary man. On Dec. 23, 1964, as part of the Cuban campaign, the 40th Highlanders



THE INVASION

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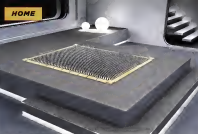
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THE BIG SLEEP: the astronomically pricey Annapole bed has body contouring 'rings'

The \$30,000 bed

Boomers used to laugh at those infomercial 'luxury' beds for old folks. Now they're getting out their wallets.

BY GLORIA RIM • When Fran Lebowitz said that life is something that happens when you can't get to sleep, she wasn't reckoning with Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Ted Soder's prototype multimedia bed. A special infrared camera above the bed follows the movement of your torso and comes so close that it focuses your eyes in the morning, igniting the alarm to go off and starting the eyesless computer knows you'll be awake sleep. The bed can even sense if you've stopped breathing and send off an alarm.

It's not sleep that's the new sex, as everyone says now—it's beds. Gone are the days when an expensive model was the domain of the elderly and your only "luxury" option was the Craftsman adjustable bed of substantial fame. Now even people like former soccer star Kathy Ireland (with her Kathy Ireland Home brand) are in the high-end bed business. And your options are myriad. There are beds with temperature-cooling fabrics, beds with TVs, and beds made of foam developed by NASA. There's even something called the Annapole, made of plastic rods topped with small plastic discs—2,000 of them for the king size, to be precise—that contour to the body and allow free flow of air so the more bed there's no mattress (and no stains) and vacuumed. The price? A cool \$16,000.

"We're seeing an increasing number of people spend \$1,000 or more on a new mattress and box spring," says Dave Friesema, a vice president and general manager of Sleep Country Canada. The International Sleep

Products Association in the U.S. has found that luxury bed sets over the \$1,000 mark accounted for about 25 per cent of the market in 2004, compared to about 15 per cent four years ago. That figure's popularity index is large part, it seems, to the aging boomer population. "Baby boomers believe in fitness, health and wellness, and a good bed is a big part of that," says Karl Runkel, vice senior officer of North Carolina-based Home Furnishings Store. "And because we have tremendous buying power, a lot of mattress manufacturers are marketing now and offering high-tech beds."

High and health have also become savvy about the needs of non-wealthy boomers: diet and have begun seeking better and better mattresses. Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide were the first to roll out high-tech models in 1999 with the Heavenly Bed, designed with Serta for their Western hotels. Some months after the beds started appearing, several NBA basketball teams found out the Westerns were staying in didn't have the new beds, and threatened to move to another hotel. The beds are now for sale on the hotel group's website, and Starwood has de-

signed and stocked other luxury beds for their Sheraton and Four Points hotels. Meanwhile, two boutique hotels in Boston, Concord House and Bath Primary Hotel, have added out for the seasonally priced Annapole beds.

But it's not just boomers or the wealthy who are buying. Juliana Chou, a 33-year-old Toronto teacher, just bought herself a new Tempur-Pedic bed with the space-age NASA pressure-relieving foam. "All my friends were buying these new pillow-top mattresses, and once I tried one, I couldn't go back." What did she end up spending? "Well, I got a bit of a deal at \$2,600, but I still spent double what I used to spend." She shrugs. "I figured having a good night's sleep in bed, and I thought I'd get back somewhere else."

It's perhaps not surprising that more people are paying attention to sleep. The Better Sleep Council Canada, a non-profit that provides sleep tips, has found that one third of Canadians may wake at night at least once a week due to problems, and more than a third average less than six hours of sleep every night, one in 10 Canadians consistently has trouble falling asleep. "There just aren't enough hours in the day to do everything we want," says Dr. Richard Leong, director of the Sleep Laboratory at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. "A significant number of my patients don't have sleep disorders but are simply sleep-deprived. They'll tell me 'Oh, last night I only got six hours but it was an unusual night,' but when they start to consider it, every night is an unusual night. Lack of sleep has become normal."

But do you need an expensive, high-tech bed to get a good night's sleep? There's no real proof of that, says Leong. "There's no real proof that new memory foam mattresses are good for patients who are immobile or who have osteoporosis problems, but they do distribute pressure more evenly, but there's only been one good study done on mattresses." That one, he says, was published in the journal *The Lancet* in 2003. "And that just said that medium-firm mattresses might be better for you than hard ones if you had lower-back pain." If you have trouble sleeping, Leong suggests, you might want to first follow a few simple rules. Do a body upgrade, go to bed at a regular time every night, and wake up at the same time every morning. Consistency is key, and it will not only improve your quality of sleep but also save you thousands of dollars.

But then, where's the sex in that? ■



TARGET SHOOTING BY THE LOO WITH A .22

A 44-year-old man was shot in the chest while using the outdoor range in his family's camp in Verdon, Vt. The culprit was a young relative who was out shooting with a .22-calibre rifle. Police are investigating whether he was aiming for the outdoors or indoors. They say the boy didn't realize the man, Chris Friesema, was inside. Friesema's family moved from the hospital in Lebanon, N.H., where he was recovering from his injuries.

LIMOUSINE LIBERALS

Publicly, for the little guy.
Privately, not so much.

BY DAVID KIRBY • "Thus 'tis with all, their chaff and earnest ones: it is to seem everything but what they say," the playwright Oliver Goldsmith wrote in the 18th century. Then as now, of course, no particular group or organization cracks open its mouth to build its identity on hypocrisy. So why is it, Peter Schneider asks in his new book, *As I Lay (Not As I Lie) Profiles in Liberal Hypocrisy*, conservatives seem to be the only ones with a reputation as hypocrites? He cites the half-dozen recent novels (just William G. Barrett, author of numerous books promoting virtue, was a heavy gambler, and that Rush Limbaugh, who often inveighs against drug use, was addicted to the painkiller OxyContin). But "there has been very little investigation into hypocrisy on the left," he says. "Liberals pass as our moral superiors.... Less concerned with money and self-interest than anyone else." But "when it comes to the things that matter most in their personal lives they tend to behave—unusually



JENN HALEY/GETTY IMAGES; JAMES HAMILTON/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL MOORE

weren't so sad, Senator Ted and the other Kennedy have been twice overbooked for alternative energy—until they caught wind (so to speak) of a plan to build wind turbines off the coast where they have their compound in Hyannis Port. Robert Kennedy Jr., who had been leading the dream for alternative energy sources for more than a decade, complained the project would be built in one of the family's favorite sailing and yachting areas.

Then there's Michael Moore. The back cover of the book is a quote from Moore saying "I don't own a single share of stock" above a list of stocks held in Moore's name, which includes shares in Enbridge (the company he denounced as run by a bunch of "thugs"), Honeywell and Boeing. Moore comes off as the most egregious offender in the volume

work longer. "He asked for an additional 25 cents an hour overtime. She told me to fire them and have them replaced." In Canada we have our fair share of "limousine liberals," though not on the same scale. John Kilborn said, who frequently criticizes "the elites" in his writings, nevertheless adjusted quickly to life as vice-regal consort to his wife, Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson. During his tenure as office the enthusiastic sociophile, gaffly, and mini-about-town, who would tell people he was properly called "Your Excellency," continued to live on how there could be done to help the homeless.

But all in all, there is less American-style hypocrisy in some professor at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto who has written extensively on "limousine liberals," partly because we have fewer people telling us how to conduct our lives. He breaks hypocrisy down into two types: people who tell you how to live, but don't live that way themselves; and those who set public policy but don't behave accordingly in their private lives. In Canada, we tend to have more of the latter, he says, citing Paul Martin using the services of a doctor in Montreal who owns private clinics.

Partly, though, he says, our Canadians just don't fly so high, so we have fewer spectacles of them crashing and burning. Or perhaps we just don't have enough people like Schneider, willing to do the research to see if our leading intellectual, cultural figures, and politicians really walk the walk—or just talk the talk. ■

When Mexican labourers asked Streisand for an extra 25 cents an hour for overtime, she had them fired

—more like conservatives than liberal.

To prove the point, Schneider, a research fellow at the Stanford-based Hoover Institution, pulled 188 records, and more than 200,000 letters, and court documents on 11 prominent liberals and activists to see if they walked the same line that they preach.

He found some glaring contradictions. Naomi Chomsky, who says she opposes the very concept of private property, owns an \$895,000 house in an exclusive Boston suburb and a \$1.2 million vacation house in Nantucket, Mass. Chomsky has frequently criticized the American tax code for its "complicated devices for cranking the poor... pay off the rich," but has set up at least one tax-dodging trust for his children. (In an email to Maclean's, Chomsky said he has seen "examples" of the book and "every one, without exception, is either an outright fabrication, or so ridiculous it is surprising anyone could have put it in print.") Some of the examples would be funny if they

(in a phone interview, Schneider said while "all" it is really bad, Moore seems to be particularly pathological, in the way everything he says is designed to hurt what he does"). In other words, the biggest, fastest hypocrite.

Unless it's Barbara Streisand. She denounces capitalists and conservatives for their "indifference to the suffering of many" and speaks of the need for labour unions to protect a "living wage." It's one of her former employers on record that she and her partners have hired some Mexican labourers with no green cards for \$5.15 an hour. When the workers then to



FINLAND: TAKING THE AIR OUT OF AIR GUITARS

Students at the Helsinki University of Technology have invented a computer program, called the Virtual Air Guitar Project, which allows television rock enthusiasts to create their own guitar solos without ever having to pick up an instrument. All the "player" has to do is put on a pair of wired gloves and rock out, while a computer monitors the hand movements and adds musical effects to precisely match the player's right-hand finger work.



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'SHAQ IS BLINDING THE 1,000 PEOPLE IN CONDO'SN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BAY. HE'S SO SMUG ABOUT IT.'—O'NEAL'S NEIGHBOUR **TIM SUERETH**,N THE ALL-STAR'S HIGH-POWERED FLOODLIGHTS

1. WE KNEW IT WAS ONLY A PHASE

Late was much less complicated for **AVRIL LAVIGNE** when she was just the voice for a generation of disaffected youth. Though music is still her top priority—Lavigne recently recorded John Lennon's biopic for new Anisette International campaign—the 23-year-old is busy with several other high-profile commitments. Lavigne signed with Ford Models last month and is currently shooting *The Hot Chick*, with Richard Gere and Claire Danes. In May, she'll make her film debut as the sister of an assumed poisoner in *Queen Bees*. Her peak princess days are over.

2. A SKINNY GUY BY SUMO STANDARDS

KALYAN MARSHANOV really thinks out in the same ring. He towers above his opponents as an undefeated, top-tier wrestler at a

sumo-like 315 lb., and is Euro pose (the 32-year-old grew up in Bulgaria). But Minkley, who goes by Minkley in the ring, has proven he belongs. Last week, he was promoted to order (though only the second-highest level in the sport). He is the first European to achieve the honour and, with only 19 tournaments under his belt, has climbed the ranks faster than anyone in decades.

3. TAKING THE WEB TO THE STREETS

Documentarian **DANIEL GROSS**, who has focused most of his film on Canada's hidden past, has launched a new website, danielgross.com, a tool to empower the community. This site allows homeless people to set up personal pages, write blogs and connect with other people across the country. So far, there are 120 user profiles—complete with audio and video testimonials recorded by volunteers working for Home-

less Street Archive, run by Gross. "We want people leaving behind stories," says Gross, a film prof at Montreal's Concordia University. "We want to get their name, face, and voice public."

4. SOME LIFE-ALTERING PHOTOS

Winning photographer **SARAH ANNE JOHNSON** isn't quite a server. "You can't get the same shot by dying on for a weekend and clicking off a few rolls," says Johnson, 29, who recently sold 64 photos—shot during two treacherous trips to swarmed Minutemen in New York's Guggenheim Museum. "I don't go for dramatic, I experiment. I need to feel what the people are feeling."

5. MORE THAN JUST A MILLION-WATT SMILE

Tim Suereth is only five-foot-six and 120 lb., but he refuses to back down from MMA superstar **BRANDON O'NEAL**. For months, Suereth and other West Avenue residents in Miami Beach, Fla., have complained about the floodlights that O'Neal installed around his waterfront home. "He doesn't see people screaming his backyard," says Suereth, who recently launched a new website, timshaq.com. "But Shaq is blinding the 1,000 people living in condos on the other side of the bay."

6. FETCHING ON RUSSIA'S FAR RIGHT

MARIA MALINOVSKAYA, the star candidate for the ultraconservative Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, was discovered—oddly enough—as the star of a reality TV show. During filming the summer, co-star and LDPB's leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy took a liking to the former movie-show host (ranked one of the most women loved) and convinced her to join his party. In October, Malinovskaya, 33, who ran under her real name—**Maria Sadekova**—won one of only two LDPB seats in a full-scale 19-seat legislature. She has traded her short shorts

7. CANADA'S GOLD-MEDAL ICE PAINTER

Artist **ALAN KIRKMAN** where they can. For **BRANDON O'NEAL**, the star candidate for the ultraconservative Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, was discovered—oddly enough—as the star of a reality TV show. During filming the summer, co-star and LDPB's leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy took a liking to the former movie-show host (ranked one of the most women loved) and convinced her to join his party. In October, Malinovskaya, 33, who ran under her real name—**Maria Sadekova**—won one of only two LDPB seats in a full-scale 19-seat legislature. She has traded her short shorts

8 & 9. A FUNNY CARRIER MOVE

trapped by their experience in provincial politics and life in the quiet town of Powell River, B.C., **SHAWN** and **JAN FRANK** will have control of the city. Their proposed comedy series, based in the fictional town of Thyme Harbour, tells the story of Bob Gilbert, a fisherman who accepts money from a political party and unexpectedly wins a seat in the legislature. The *Witness*—who posted their pilot on Google Video—have written four full scripts and have twice sold to networks (snapped up). An Australian broadcaster has shown some interest but Canadian net-

10. BATTLE BREWS IN RANGKOK

work has been slow. "They want to see more of the drama and pull back on some of the comedy," says Gendler, C's former Liberal party leader. "I get enough done watching CBC News."

THE BACK PAGES

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BY BRIAN J. JACKSON

She's from New York. He's from out of town. Their relationship is doomed before it begins, but it's one of the most iconic romances in the history of cinema. Ingrid gets with that insane bit of foreplay. A great girl holds a warning: blood in the palm of his hand and stripes off some of her clothing, pinning her like a butterfly, then pines to sniff her fingers with bemoaning ecstasy. When King Kong premiered in 1933, it thrilled audiences with things they'd never seen before. That fusion of ape rape, featuring *Centauria* actress Fay Wray, was one of them. But when the film was released in 1978, under the pall of Hollywood's newly enforced production code, censors cut out the heavy petting—along with graphic scenes of natives being eaten alive and splashed into the sea.

The original Kong was the master of all manner moves. Sure, humans in costume had played supervillain like Dracula and Frankenstein, but this was the first blockbuster with a frenzied special-effects premiere—the director of *Godzilla*, *Jaws* and *Jurassic Park*. Now, after a string of *Godzilla* clones and sagas, Kong has been resurrected in grand style. And the 25-foot, 8,000-lb gorilla has never been seen so...sadder or more cooing.

Peter Jackson, the Oscar-winning director of *The Lord of the Rings*, has pulled out all the stops with his 2005-million-plus-ring gorilla, a three-hour tour de force. It's his Titanic, a dizzying spectacle of special effects unfurled by special kingly. But Jackson's more of an artist than Titanic's James Cameron. With an all-star cast of native junkies, snakes and snakes, and digital animation, he has raised the bar for blockbuster action. It's hard to think of another effects movie created with such

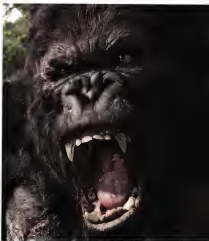
Peter Jackson's King Kong is a monumental homage to the original, so where's all the monkey business?

harshness. And, with director development and fine-tuning, Jackson has a computer-aided creature expressed with a profound range of emotional expression.

Seeing the original movie is what made Jackson want to be a filmmaker. He watched it on a black-and-white TV in a three-year-old in New Zealand, and that was the start of a life-long obsession. At 12, he ate up to shoot his own Kong with a Super 8 camera, making up his own story for his role to make a pet for a war-torn gorilla. Now 44, Jackson still considers the 1933 Kong his favorite film and has been trying to make it for 15 years.

LARGE in the 1976 version of Kong

WE LOVE YOU YA BIG APE



2005'S FROM NEW YORK, HE'S FROM OUT OF TOWN. Clearly, their relationship is doomed to fail.

Although he'd never heaven and Middle Earth to do it, he has succeeded in creating a monumental homage, the king of Kong.

But last week in New York, after Jackson showed his movie to an audience for the first time, a few trade critics were disappointed. In his version Kong doesn't understand Narnia. What's who's caught in the Fay Wray role as Ann Darrow. What is very enough. She spends most of the movie slithering around the jungle in an ivory slip, and eventually gets quite comfortable curling up in Kong's big girth. But the thing is, he never takes advantage of her. As fierce as he is, this noble savage has gentleness at heart. A sentimental gorilla.

When asked why he created the bawdy-porky, Jackson said, "It's not what I'm interested in. I'm interested in the big gorilla and the love story and the emotional connection." Perhaps just as well. Later scenes allow Kong and Fay Wray to have a moment of love, if not a moment of love, if not a moment of love.



THE ORIGINAL was a stockpot of stereotypes: the blood-drenched and the rapacious black ape

is an older primate. A scarred and hardened silverback gorilla. Having lived alone on Skull Island too long, finding all dinosaurs, he's not here so much as an entry. A May-December girl-gorilla fling might be more than a little creepy, even for the broad-minded folks in Woody Allen's New York. And with the level of zoological realism that Jackson has invested in his protagonist, a flurry of finger-wagging would seem out of character.

There's one thing the director wants to stress about Kong: "He's a gorilla, he's not a creature." In a post-Dan Fainey world where apes are regular guests on the Discovery Channel, audiences would recognize a fake. Unlike previous incarnations, the new Kong is a quadruped who looks, moves and sounds like a genuine gorilla. And the realization of this complex animal character is the movie's greatest achievement. "I wanted him to be sympathetic but I didn't want to make him cute," says Jackson. "I wanted to keep that wild, ungod-damnably brutish creature."

Kong is a computer-generated creature whose movements are harnessed to an actor's performance via motion-capture scanning technology. The brilliant actor inside the effect is Andy Serkis, who brought Gollum to life with similar techniques in *The Lord of the Rings*. Serkis spent two months studying wild gorillas in Rwanda. "It helped they're extremely social animals," he says. That insight helped illuminate Kong's character, an orphan who has been "isolated, harassed, and lonely since birth." The "unconscious love" he develops for Ann, he adds, "goes back to a gorilla's primal desire for companionship."

Every era gets the Kong it deserves. Hollywood's recent generation of screen directors often seem to be in the business of making movies about movies—referencing the pictures that first ignited their boyhood imaginations. Most are film geeks, from Steven Spielberg, who worshipped Japanese master Akira Kurosawa, to Quentin Tarantino, who

It's one of the most iconic romances in the history of cinema—beginning with that bizarre bit of foreplay

dated on Asian martial arts movies. Jackson has explored the original Kong like a mad scientist, poring over photos, collecting artifacts and reconstructing old models. Now it's on his 3D-digitalized Kong's skeleton, given to new flesh, and brought to soaring back to life with a defibrillating zap of digital technology.

While Jackson behaves like an obsessed fan reconstructing Hollywood gospel—a case of art springing from the original Kong was more about an aging life. In so director, Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack, made action movies inspired by their own exploits as real-life action heroes. Cooper was a big-screen flying ace during the First World War. And in 1934, when he met Schoedsack, he spent nine months as a prisoner of war after being shot down as a member of a U.S. air intelligence squadron. An Indiana Jones of his day, Cooper later conducted expeditions to far-flung corners of the world. He shot a series of

spectacular action "documentaries" in exotic locations, such as China, a Thai adventure that featured a massive elephant stampede, and Greece, which followed his foot from a road made over snowy mountain peaks.

The first Kong was, in a way, a collaboration. Carl Denham, the intrepid film maker sailing for Skull Island, is a thinly veiled version of Cooper. Denham's adventure Jack Driscoll, who falls for Ann Darrow, is modeled on Schoedsack. As for the ape, he was a 13-inch model shot in the revolutionary new technique of stop-frame animation—which was intended for the film and is still used in much the same way.

In the '30s, gorillas were still relatively unknown and often demeaned. And the original Kong was a canibal stockpot of racial and gender stereotypes—a blond damsel is kidnapped by a central casting savant who offers her as a human sacrifice to a big, black, muscle-bound ape. Over the years, more than a few film scholars have interpreted the story as a metaphor for slavery, as the tale of a noble savage who's snatched from the jungle, shipped to chains and shipped to America to serve as amusement.

In 1976, Dino De Laurentiis produced a blockbuster *Kong* remake that

Naomi Watts spends most of the movie slithering around the jungle in a slinky ivory slip



Films

Film attempted a politically correct makeover in a comedy genre writing is classified the screenplay of Jesse Levy. It's a babe in blue-jean cut-offs who acts Bang straight by collecting her "vase of human poops." Denzels was retooled as a greedy capitalist exploring Shell Island for a gourmet company—played by scenery-chewing Gleebe, who seemed determined to use graffiti-like on his scenery-chewing antics. A bearded Jeff Bridges played the Denzell character as a hippie environmentalist. In this version, King falls from the top of the World Trade Center, only to emerge from a coma a decade later in a sequel, King Kong Lives—swath he receives an artificial hand and finds a mate. Confirms movie. How honest.

The new *Kings* uses the original movie as its starting point, but grows a whole new culture from DNA—a wildly imagined new world of flora, fauna and civilization. There are more digital effects in this one—swarm as in five times *Land of the Kings* trilogy. Jackson's New Zealand team created scores of prehistoric creatures, many of them imaginary—a razzamatzomatop of dinosaurs, birds, lizards, and more bats and moths. The film also has

CRANDALL across Fay Wray played the angelic Ann Derrico, a sacrificial lamb.

created a jungle of digital images and textures, a tangle of vegetation that included 134,000 acres of artificial foliage.

Jackson decided to set his sights in 1933, when it was still conceivable that there were last corners of the world left to discover. Instead of shoeing on lacrosse, his team built a digital city, an entire facade of 306 New York City they "grew" from the ground up with financial precision, basing it on aerial photographs and blueprints.

Appropriately, the manifesting the more

As fierce and ornery as he is, Jackson's Kong is a gentleman at heart. He's a chivalrous gorilla.

dition in Jackson's *King* is an obsessive filmmaker. The masochistic Jack Black (*The School of Rock*) plays DeBorah as a B-grade Oscar Wifley. After a bad meeting with some crude studio execs, who want a movie with "bombs," DeBorah steals the reels of his unfinished film and recruits Ann, a surviving vaudeville actress, to be his new leading lady. Chasing a map of Skull Island, DeBorah battles his crew onto a tramp steamer, a ship of fools captained by a German trafficker in exotic animals.

Jack Demarco, who will sit with the aptly named Ann's love, is once again a sensitive playboy, portrayed by Adrien Brody (*The Pianist*), Ann's toposic to King's alpha male. (John magnifies the love triangle into the drama's main event, dramatizing with the bygone sheet-set around the top of the Empire State Building. It's a spectacular sequence, but as *John* plays more to his death, it's difficult to get excited about this pale writer's gag. Ann's original writer, turning into her agent at the finale. A romantic triangle can't have it both ways.

Jackson has an awful lot going on this movie, which goes out of its way to under score its ambitions. Jamie Bell (*Belly*) plays a cabin boy who is soon reading *Moby-Dick* perhaps once too often. The natives on Skull Island are a macabre, corrupted tribe that would bring it home at the infernal end of Coastal's river, or in Karna's conical in Atollah's New Mizushima.

Even Patsy, the African American cat in the first issue—and the wisest character in the movie, aside from the ape—seems to have the single-handed job of redressing King Kong's legacy of racist and colonial stereotypes.

Just as dense the profusion of references, puns and word and meaning connotations, this book is not exactly an art form. It is a high school civics class with references to action, drama, and the challenges of adolescence and concepts of pleasure (e.g., "Warm Sides [100 ways to eat pizza] taste good, don't they?") a first scene and even the maddest Slink adult thinking in one scene—Jackson's answer to the leg-sliding "hot spots" pig sequence, which was cut from the 1993 version before its release. After scores of the cop's hormones turn him to deep sleep, they are attacked by giant sloths and man-eating dogs. This is *Savage* worthy of Cronenberg. The final nightmarish scene being a mere byproduct of the fantasy by a drug craze that the actor involved later gleefully describes as a "Wendell panic monster."

With a cello cradling from the Skull Island of Jackson's over-the-top imagination, the gothic becomes an almost comforting figure. At a press conference, Wang confessed, giggling that she thought Kong was "the ultimate man—he has everything you need." He's an impossible man, like in a post-9/11 world of divine monsters, he's just an old-fashioned guy, for the kind of girl who wants a man to hold her right, and never let go. **W**

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WINE TALKING STALKING...

KATIE HOLMES AND TOM CRUISE'S BABY

The American College of Radiology expressed concern for baby Cruise after dad said he'd be performing home sonograms—"which is scientific and possibly a violation of federal law. Holmes is free to be vocal during labor," said Cruise, despite the fact that Sonotopologists believe in a "silent birth." And the baby will be born out of wedlock as the couple will marry in October 2006.

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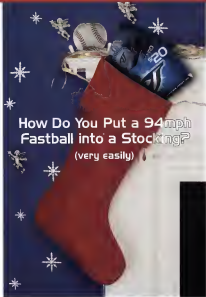
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OLIVER HUDSON IS BLUE: Each week he'd try to deliver to his sanity, only to find himself defeated by his neighbours' weird logic.

Hurrah for Hooterville

Green Acres' gleeful weirdness has inspired the biggest name in modern comedy

BY JACQUE E. WERNERMAN • An elderly couple arrives a pig as their son. Characters discover their values are out of sync and that the only way to fix the problem is to let themselves on the side of the head. And there comes from a production by an underground theatre troupe? No, it's Green Acres, a 1960s TV comedy that introduced confusion and satire into the unsuspecting prime-time TV world, and whose gleeful weirdness continues to influence everything from *The Simpsons* to late night sketch comedy.

Green Acres, whose third season comes to DVD this week, inspired a generation of new comers who were amazed and pleased to find such crazy stuff disguised as a conventional network sitcom. Its first include some of the biggest names in modern comedy: Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*, provided a cover blurb for a book about Green Acres. Conan O'Brien told *Playboy* magazine, "I love how Green Acres breaks reality." Canadian comic Dave Foley, at *Kids in the Hall* and *News Radio*, has called Green Acres his all-time favourite show, and explained why in an *Out* magazine. "I think it is one of the most lightly and elegantly written shows ever done on television. It was running around with structure is a really sensitive way."

Green Acres' wit came out with the invention of talking up TV comedy. The creator, Jay Stern, was a veteran of radio comedy who'd edited Green Acres on his last level in the 1950s. Green Acres' on-air life was explained in the *Green Acres* theme song, it was the story of Oliver Hudson (Eddie Albert), a successful New Yorker who decides to "get away from the rat race" by moving to a remote little farm on the outskirts of the small town of Hooterville, to the disapproval of his eccentric wife, Lisa (Donna Gibson). In its first season, Green Acres was a relatively conventional fish-out-of-water comedy, similar to

The Beverly Hills Cop (which shared the same producer, Paul Henning).

By its second and third seasons, Green Acres had gone from a wholesome rural comedy to a place where some night time that was often compared to that other '60s phenomenon theatre of the absurd. Most episodes were written by Stern and his writing partner, Dick Chevillat, and their formula was to devote each episode to what Greening had called "the story of Oliver Douglas as he'll." Each week, Oliver would try to hold on to his sanity, only to find himself defeated by the twisted logic of his neighbours, not to mention Lisa, who

thought about rural life. Green Acres took an unexpectedly cynical view of "farm life" and human nature in general.

Stern and Chevillat also turned Green Acres into a show that satirized the conventions of television, in a way so successful it showed down to first prize *Monty Python* em. Many episodes satirized the conventions of the opening credits, and a famous running gag had them noticing the parody film made this plays whenever Oliver gives a speech about the nobility of "the American Farmer" and wondering where the music is coming from.

It's easy to spot the influence of Green Acres on the people who grew up watching it. *The Simpsons* has frequently drawn on Green Acres' mockery of TV conventions and its cynical message that the average town is populated entirely by idiots. Even the cop jokes about what time the Simpsons' house is in may be a tip of the hat to the equally satirical location of Hooterville. The final episode of *Monty Python* had them quoting from Green Acres while all the other characters followed Oliver Douglas's example by going off to the country to live on a farm. And Ben Stiller was once reported to be developing a new version of Green Acres, which, perhaps naturally, never came to be.

The U.S. cable channel Nick at Nite used to advertise Green Acres with the slogan "It's not stupid, it's surreal." It's also the ancestor of all that is surreal, silly and strange in TV comedy.



DREAMY LIFESAVERS... ACCORDING TO TV

Thanks to the popularity of Patrick Despey on the hit medical show *Grey's Anatomy*, more former dark-haired guys are making their way to television hospitals. Rick Springfield (leader of the '80s pop band Asteri's) is set to return as surgeon Pop Singer Dr. Noah Drake on *General Hospital* after a 20-year absence. And John Stamos, the actor formerly known as Uncle Ernie (and *Baywatch*), dropped into LA for a two-episode stand-in as a *Portland* paramedic.



A developer fights for a permanent Manhattan home for Cirque du Soleil

Beland's US\$340-million, 1,200-unit *Cirque du Soleil* project would also include apartments and stand 60 stories, far taller than would be allowed without the intermediate zoning. On Oct. 6, Beland's request was approved.



Admission from New York's planning commission is pending. But even if the West 42nd proposal doesn't fly, the Cirque is bound, eventually, to find a permanent home in the San Angelo, long-term or not. ■

Fed Dewar's roadside events incorporate some unlikely props: each, an author noddle and a tent, all set up elegantly in the middle of the street where he lives in Colford, England. This fall he assembled an outdoor living room complete with patterned plants, Dewar himself reading the newspaper and a faux trash scene. Dewar, a children's author, said the art interventions to slow drivers down. We call it "Slow Down the Road."



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Herbal tonics? No fountain of youth there. Experiments on worms, though....

Answer: I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live for ever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever.

If *Will* is pushing anything, it's the idea that, just maybe, bona fide modified breeds thrives are on the horizon, and in the meantime, there is value in looking at such cultural anomalies as the Okinawans of Japan. With an average lifespan of 82 years (and a diet of pork, tofu, tomatoes, purple sweet potato, gyo-u—shrimps—noodles—pumpkins and seaweed, or: *Alcoholic rice beverages*), they are among the longest living people on the planet.

On the science side, Will is impressed with the results of new, life-extending experiments in the fields of evolutionary and structural biology. At the University of California at Irvine, a biologist mimicked the lifespan of fruit flies by

Resveratrol, a compound that is found in red wine, could turn out to be 'the ultimate free lunch'

The problem, he adds, "for most of us is that eating and food give us too much pleasure." There is, however, an advantage, potentially much more palatable than starvation. Researcher, the compound found in such things as red wine, is thought to activate similar "protective responses" to those that occur in animals on calorie-restricted diets. "We did," writes Wolf, "concoct a soup

Outside North America, anti-aging science is decades ahead of what was once thought possible. At Cambridge University in September, 42-year-old biomedical gerontologist Aubrey de Grey organized a think-tank conference on aging strategies. De Grey claims people alive now could live for 1,000 years or longer. The symposium's attendees included surgeon Anthony Atala, director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, whose team is right now growing tissues and organs such as kidneys and bladders that could one day be transplanted into humans.

After talk of all these experiments, Wolf's final advice is rather disappointing: "Get an equine vet and deep." "Expand your mind as well as your body." "Learn and practice methods of stress protection." What, when there's a worm just lying there increasing its lifespan by leaps and bounds? Readers ought to be at work for the mill. **M**

MOST IMPROVED: IRLAND'S BLOOM

As vices go, green tea is hardly the worst. But actor Orlando Bloom has kicked the habit because he says the minimal amount of caffeine contained in tea was causing him back pain, aggravating an injury he had sustained while before hand made a game for himself in Hollywood. Bloom drank too much of the beverage while shoot ing *Gladiator* and ended up leaving the set in pain by the end of each shift. Those who love the drink left the same way.

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THIS ME, NAME: John Gyllenhaal has one. So do James Gandolfini, Sylvester Stallone and Johnny Depp.

How much is that puggle in the window?

This cross between a pug and a beagle is fast becoming the new 'it' dog

BY CATHERINE O'BRIEN • Move over labradoodle, step aside chihuahua—puggles are the latest must have in canine fashion. This dog, a cross between a pug and beagle, has in recent months become the ultimate metro dog in New York and L.A. According to Garry Garner, president of the American Canine Hybrid Club in Atlanta, the puggle's sudden popularity can be traced back to its arrival there not early this fall at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and provided a wave of media attention. Hollywood stars have since been spotted snagging their puggle pups. Actor John Gyllenhaal of *Jarhead*, known to be a dog lover who dates a German shepherd with actress Kirsten Dunst, was depicted in various sightings trailing his new friend like a baby. Sylvester Stallone, Johnny Moore and Supreme tough guy James Gandolfini are also said to be new puggle owners.

The star power of these designer mutts has caused prices to have reached the US\$1,000 range, which is how one would expect to pay for a purebred. Canines who were the dog have resorted to leaving them dropped upon the street or sending out desperate solicitations to fellow can pre-kindergarten. But Kelly Cash of Cambridge, Ont., a notable cogen has pushed back. "I don't think [he seller] realized their pups were puggles," she says. "I didn't know it was a pug. I just thought it was really cute." Because of allergies, Cash had to give up the dog, but she quickly realized he was special. Within less than a week of posting a puggle-for-sale notice online, she'd received more than 20 inquiries.

Withington at between 14 and 20 lbs fully grown, puggles have the soft, floppy ears of a beagle and the curled black-and-white facial features of a pug, but with a slightly longer snout. Their bark is a happy yip rather than the repetitive and loud bay typical of beagles, making them perfect for apartment dwellers.

Puggles are part of the new breed of hybrid dog, the mixing of two pure breeds with the aim of combining the best characteristics of each. Labradoodles were among the first hybrids. Emerging in the 1980s, they were actually bred as guide dogs for allergic owners. The lab's sturdy build and sweet nature, combined with the standard poodle's shed-free coat, made it a hugely popular pet. There are now endless varieties of poodle hybrids and dogs on the market—poodle-pom, shih-pom, weenie-pom, blue-pom and pom-pom among them. Other crosses, like the pug-

What concerns animal lovers is that many of these mutts turned dog du jour will end up in shelters

beagle (a Jack Russell terrier crossed with a shih-tzu), have also started turning up at local dog parks.

What concerns breeders and animal lovers is that these former must-have dogs do just as likely to end up in shelters once the dog passes. Most human ailments are familiar with Christian puppy syndrome. Adoption kennels tend to fill up with unwanted puppies in January and about four to six months later, when Christian puppies start becoming dogs. Dog experts also worry that people are going for hybrids because of the extremely high price that owners and mutts are stronger, healthier dogs because they're

drawn from a larger gene pool. That is not necessarily the case, says Dr. Stanley Cohen, best-selling dog book author and a psychologist at the University of British Columbia. "If you mix a pug and a beagle you get a cross. But the second generation, when you mix puggles with puggles, is unpredictable. The offspring can be random combinations. Pugs tend to be people-oriented, and beagles have their own agenda, they're difficult to train. So you'll either end up with a mixed pug or a mixed beagle, but there won't be any consistency within the breed."

Laura Ingelhart, director for Ontario and Quebec of the Pug Club of Canada, says she's been getting inquiries about puggles in recent months. People are interested in either finding out or taking her pedigree pugs for breeding. "I would never, never sell my dogs in a random program," she says adamantly. "When you promote these kind of 'X' breeds you're subsidizing every puppy mill that's out there."

There are, however, reputable puggle breeders. Even the U.S. Wildlife House of Pugs/Hams Kennels in Whycome, Maine is the first puggle breeder in the world. He is definitely the main responsible for registering the pug name with the American Canine Hybrid Club. He recalls a pug coming to his kennel one day and describing the best dog he ever had at a cross between a pug and beagle. "I always remembered that," says Haves, who breeds mixes exclusively and sells around 100 puggles a year, his top seller. ■



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT... SIX GINSENGE ROOTS

A package of six wild ginseng roots, some of which were 110 years old, sold for close to US\$120,000 at an auction in Seoul. The roots were part of the four-day 2005 Korea Ginseng and Herb Festival. Wild Korean ginseng, known as *schizandra*, is a rare and expensive variety of the root that grows in the mountains. The ginseng was purchased by a young entrepreneur and his brothers, who hope to cure their mother's ailing knees.

HENRY TAUBE

1915-2005

His mom couldn't stand his constant chatter and sent him to school early. He won the Nobel Prize.

Henry Taube was born on Nov. 30, 1915, in the village of Nida, about 135 km northeast of Riga. His parents were Russian immigrants, who raised four boys in a small hut on a thousand-acre wheat farm near by Oskolski, a grainy patch on the Trans-Canada. Henry was the precious runt of the bunch. His mother, unable to stand his constant chatter, sent him early to the local one-room schoolhouse. By the age of 13, he'd completed all the classes. His parents didn't have the money for Luther College high school in Regina, so Henry cleaned tubes and returned there twice for his education. Four years later, a teacher encouraged him to attend the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Henry, an underdog 16-year-old, went on a scholarship, bringing rusty English. The first day was so overwhelming, Henry couldn't figure out where to register. When he ran into an old Luther College friend who'd just enrolled in chemistry, Henry fell the name.

By 1935, he'd received bachelor's and master's degrees in science. His professors wrote letters to colleagues at the University of California at Berkeley, arranging for him to do his doctorate in chemistry there. Henry, who'd never left the Prairies, hopped a Greyhound bus to America. He got his Ph.D. in 1939, and taught at Berkeley for a year, then spent five years as a professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. In 1946, he moved to the University of Chicago. Whenever he taught, Henry was known as a professed chatter, but he was never caught. He would pass the lab assistant's baton from his office to his lab, but he was never caught.

It was in Chicago, just at the Second World War ended, that Henry met the love of his life, Mary, at a campus dance. They wed in 1946, and had two sons, Karl and Heinrich. Henry and Mary already each had a daughter from a previous relationship. Linda and Marianne. After 16 years in Chicago, Henry moved back to California, family in tow, this time to teach at Stanford University. His long-time passion for oxidation-reduction or "redox" reactions (whereby electrons are lost and gained during chemical processes) became his life's work. "He was an absolute pioneer," says Stanford colleague Jim Collins, who knew Henry for more than 40 years. "He's quite dependent on his ideas." Those ideas were so significant they led to at least 18 major scientific discoveries, and in 1981, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in

chemistry. Throughout his career, he received dozens of scientific honors, including the Guggenheim, twice.

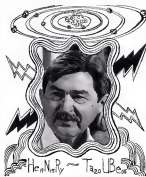
And still, Henry always referred to himself as "a farm boy from Saskatchewan," though he became a naturalized American in 1942. The reward money he received he spent on precious purchases, such as a screen door. "Most scientists and Nobel laureates have their heads in the sky," says Helen Agoston, an editorial assistant in charge at Stanford. "Prof. Taube was very grounded." Before winning the Nobel, Henry had joked with Collins about leaving science before his mind faded; he had other things he wanted to do. "He said if he couldn't be a chemist, he would be a gardener," says Mary. "He always liked flowers. Especially roses. I suspect that's because there weren't a lot of flowers in the wheat fields."

But Henry never left science, or Stanford for that matter. The year before he turned 65, he was diagnosed with worry he would be forced to retire. "He just thought there wasn't a lot of flowers in the wheat fields," says Mary. So Henry kept teaching, until a few years ago, when his memory began slipping. His stopped lecturing but not on others, wrote recommendation letters, and answered the chemistry questions of his students and colleagues. Though Henry struggled more and more to maintain on the complex science processes he'd spent so many years explaining, he walked daily the two kilometers back and forth to his office. "I have no idea what he did there, but he didn't feel comfortable if he didn't go," says Mary.

One morning recently, Henry lazed about Stanford's faculty ghetto to his campus office. When he saw Helen, who wears scrunchies instead of the question he always asked, "How can you believe? There is no proof," he asked her "So you still believe?" She replied, "No proof needed." Henry eventually returned home to work on the rose garden. Mary washed him and then they enjoyed a good dinner before moving to bed. The next morning, Mary awoke without her husband's usual prod. She assumed he'd gone to school early. A short time later, Mary found him lying on their bedroom floor, unbreathed but cold.

On Nov. 16, 2005, Henry Taube, 89, died of natural causes in his home of more than 30 years on the Stanford campus.

BY CATHY GOLLA



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